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PART IX.

---

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF THIBET.

---

January to June 1907.

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Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Thibet.

PART IX.

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No. 1.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 1, 1907.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 27th December, relative to the Thibet indemnity.

*India Office, December 31, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 1.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*December 27, 1906.*

YOUR telegram dated the 22nd December.

It would be in accordance with present policy of His Majesty's Government to acquiesce in wish of Chinese Government as to Thibet indemnity. Instructions have therefore been sent to Sir J. Jordan to inform Chinese Government that payment of instalment by telegraphic transfer is agreed to by His Majesty's Government. I request that arrangements may accordingly be made. His Majesty's Government consider formality of payment through Representative of Thibetan Government is comparatively immaterial point and that, if China were to make further pretensions, we should not be prejudiced by concession.

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No. 2.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 3.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 29th December, 1906, relative to the proceedings of Chinese officials in Thibet.

*India Office, January 2, 1907.*



## Inclosure in No. 2.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, December 29, 1906.*

THIBET. Your telegram dated the 16th instant.

Authority has been given to His Majesty's Minister to bring facts reported at once to notice of Chinese Government, and, if occasion arises, to insist on rights which 1906 Convention secured to British subjects and officials at trade marts.

It was further pointed out in the instructions to Sir J. Jordan that, by consenting to indemnity being paid by China direct, His Majesty's Government have waived a point, and that whole question of our dealings with Thibet will be affected if Chinese do not in their turn, by instructing their agents in Thibet to behave reasonably, give proof of a desire for amicable settlement.

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No. 3.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 3.)*

Sir,

*India Office, January 2, 1907.*

IN reply to Sir F. Campbell's letter of the 3rd December, 1906, inclosing for Mr. Secretary Morley's observations Sir A. Nicolson's telegram No. 302 of the 29th November, relative to the Thibet negotiations with Russia, I am directed to forward, for Sir E. Grey's information, a copy of telegrams which have passed between this Office and the Government of India with reference thereto.\*

Mr. Morley would suggest that, before instructions on this point are sent to Sir A. Nicolson, His Majesty's Minister at Peking should endeavour to ascertain informally what are the boundaries of Thibet recognized by the Chinese Government.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

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No. 4.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 3.)*

Sir,

*India Office, January 2, 1907.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge Sir F. Campbell's letter of the 18th December, 1906, relative to the draft Agreement with Russia relating to Thibet.

In reply I am to say that Mr. Morley concurs in Sir E. Grey's proposal to approve Sir A. Nicolson's suggested amendments.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

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No. 5.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, January 3, 1907.*

ANGLO-RUSSIAN Agreement regarding Thibet. See your telegram No. 309 of the 17th December, 1906.

Amendments to Article II which you suggest are approved, but you should make following alteration in text forwarded by you to Sir C. Hardinge in private letter of the 20th December, 1906:—

In paragraph 3 insert: "It is recognized that it may be necessary for" instead of "it is understood that." Text otherwise approved.

\* See Part VIII, No. 93.

† See Part VIII, No. 98.



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No. 6.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 5.)*

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Peking, January 5, 1907.*

THIBET.

All knowledge of Chang's action referred to in your telegram No. 228 of the 31st December, 1906, was denied yesterday by the Board of Foreign Affairs, who said that, in view of the telegrams which he had sent urging them to negotiate the settlement of the date of opening of the trade mart, they could scarcely believe the report.

But they undertook to ask him for an explanation by telegraph, and to call upon him to rectify any announcement of the kind which he might have made.

In what form did Chang make his announcement? If I could be furnished with particulars it would be useful.

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No. 7.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 7, 1907.)*

(No. 834.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, December 26, 1906.*

AT M. Isvolsky's weekly reception to-day I mentioned to him that I hoped shortly to be in a position to communicate to him some amendments to Article II of the draft Convention regarding Thibet, which he had handed to me some time ago. In the meantime I was, I said, enabled to tell him that my Government would not object to repeating in the Convention what had been said in the ratification of the Lhasa Convention as to the question of the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley, but at the same time they scarcely saw the utility of doing so as the conditions of our occupation were made sufficiently clear in the note appended to the above-mentioned ratifications.

M. Isvolsky observed that he wished to make perfectly clear to me the position of the Russian Government in regard to the occupation of the Chumbi Valley. The Convention which the two Governments might eventually agree upon would refer to what he might term a "normal Thibet," and Thibet would not be "normal" so long as there was a British occupation of the Chumbi Valley. He would therefore like to see some mention made in the Convention that if our occupation, for some reason or another, were to assume a permanent or semi-permanent character, the provisions of the Convention should be subject to a revision.

I told his Excellency that I did not quite follow the train of his thoughts. It was distinctly stated that in the ratifications of the Lhasa Convention that, provided the Thibetan Government loyally executed certain provisions of the Convention, our occupation would terminate after a lapse of three years. This was an engagement we had undertaken with the Thibetan Government to which the Chinese Government had given their adhesion. The Convention which we might eventually agree upon concerned the respective attitudes of the Russian and British Governments towards Thibet, and certain limitations to which we should respectively subscribe as to our intercourse with Lhasa. I could not, therefore, understand the necessity of making our negotiations depend upon the character of a guarantee which we had found it necessary to take from the Thibetan Government to insure the due fulfilment by the latter of their engagements towards us. The two questions seemed to me distinct. M. Isvolsky replied that, in his opinion, we were negotiating with regard to a normal situation in Thibet, while if, after three years, certain engagements on the part of the Thibetan Government had not been fulfilled, we should remain in occupation of the Chumbi Valley, and therefore be in a privileged position, and the situation would not be normal.

I told M. Isvolsky that as regards Thibet, normal or otherwise, we were already in a special position, and after our occupation of Lhasa we were bound to take some security for the future. Did he, I asked, wish us to insert in our Convention with the Russian Government any clause which would modify our other Conventions with Thibet and China? I was sure that this could not be admitted.

M. Isvolsky said that naturally he had no desire to modify either of our Conventions with China or Thibet. He merely wished to insert a clause that if the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley assumed a permanent or semi-permanent character, the provisions of the Anglo-Russian Convention should be reconsidered. He had not a formula ready



at hand, and he would ask me to give him a few days to think out one. He agreed with His Majesty's Government that it would be of little utility to merely repeat in the future Anglo-Russian Convention what was already mentioned in instruments concluded with China and Thibet as to the Chumbi Valley occupation, but I would now see that he desired the insertion of a clause of a different character. In short, the two Governments proposed, he said, to draw up a kind of self-denying Convention with respect to Thibet, but if we remained in possession of a portion of Thibet the self-denying clause would not be applied by us. Russia should therefore have the right to reconsider the provisions of the Anglo-Russian Convention if the situation had not returned to a normal condition after a specified period.

I told his Excellency that I would revert again to the subject when he had his formula ready, and I would take his present observations as indicating his line of thought. I had gathered from the Memorandum which he had given me that the Russian Government wished to have a reiteration of the provisional and conditional character of our occupation of the Chumbi Valley, but I now understood that something else was intended, and I would consequently have to consult with you on the subject. Although I saw the trend of his argument, I did not yet appreciate its applicability; but I would await his further communication on the question. I then turned to the subject of scientific missions, which I reserve for another despatch.

I think from the foregoing conversation that M. Isvolsky has been induced to shift his position somewhat, and it will be of interest to see the terms of his formula. The question of Thibet, which I anticipated would be one simple enough to agree upon, appears likely to present some difficulties. The evolution of the views of M. Isvolsky in respect to Thibet is of interest, as no doubt he reflects tendencies and aspirations which were not at the outset of our discussions apparent. It seemed clear to me that the Russian Government desire to place themselves on an equal footing with us in respect to Thibet, and to ignore as far as possible our recent expedition and the consequences flowing therefrom. M. Isvolsky hinted obscurely that if the occupation of the Chumbi Valley were prolonged, the Russian Government would be entitled to some concessions, and he appeared to be sceptical that it would terminate at the date fixed. He mentioned casually that some influences at Lhasa, direct or indirect, might give rise to incidents which would be regarded as a non-fulfilment of Thibetan obligations, and when I told him that the faithful fulfilment of Thibetan engagements depended solely upon the Thibetans themselves, and that we, on our side, would loyally perform ours, he did not appear to be reassured.

To my remark that we already enjoyed a special position in Thibet, he observed that it would be well if we were to state so explicitly. This has already been done in the first Memorandum which I had communicated to him, and which will be repeated in the revised draft Article No. II which I will communicate to him, as soon as I receive your final instructions in regard to it. As I have not hitherto forwarded my proposed draft officially, I beg leave to inclose a copy of it.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

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Inclosure in No. 7.

*Proposed Article II of the Draft Convention respecting Thibet.*

IN conformity with the principle of the suzerainty of China over Thibet, Russia and Great Britain severally engage not to enter into negotiations with Thibet except through the intermediary of the Chinese Government. This engagement does not exclude the direct relations between British commercial agents and the Thibetan authorities as provided for in Article V of the Convention between Great Britain and Thibet of the 7th September, 1904, and confirmed by the Convention between Great Britain and China of the 27th April, 1906; nor does it modify the engagements taken by Great Britain and China in Article I of the said Convention of 1906.

Russia recognizes that, by reason of its geographical position, Great Britain has a special interest in seeing that the external relations of Thibet are not disturbed by the intervention of any other Power.

It is understood that British and Russian Buddhists may enter into direct relations on strictly religious matters with the Dalai Lama and other Buddhist Representatives in



Thibet. At the same time Great Britain and Russia severally engage to take such steps as may be necessary and possible to prevent the relations between British and Russian Buddhists with the representatives of Buddhism in Thibet from assuming a political character; and they also engage that no communications between the Governments of Great Britain and Russia, or their Agents, and any Thibetan authority should pass through the instrumentality of Buddhist pilgrims into Thibet.

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No. 8.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 7, 1907.)*

(No. 835.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, December 27, 1906.*

I MENTIONED to M. Isvolsky yesterday that I thought that my Government might be disposed to agree that both they and the Russian Government should abstain from allowing any scientific missions to proceed to Thibet for a period of five years, when the question should be reconsidered. He remarked that this prohibition seemed to him both too wide and, so far as the Russian Government were concerned, difficult to enforce. His Majesty's Government, he said, were enabled to take such measures as they thought desirable, as they had a conterminous frontier with Thibet, which was not the case as regards Russia. The Russian Government might prohibit expeditions from leaving Russian territory, but he did not see how they could prevent an expedition being organized in Mongolia, for instance, and entering Thibet. Moreover, there was another point to be considered, and that was the fact that explorers of other nationalities than Russian or English might proceed unimpeded to Thibet, and it might be difficult to justify to the Russian Geographical Society a prohibition which affected Russian but did not apply to foreign explorers. M. Sven Hedin had entered Thibet from the north, and he believed that a German explorer also had entered, or was about to enter, that country. Russians and English had done so much for geographical research in Thibet, that it seemed hard that they should have to suspend their explorations for a specified time, while others had no such impediments placed in their way. He quite appreciated the desire of His Majesty's Government that measures should be taken, if possible, to prevent political action from being taken under the veil of scientific exploration; but the question was a very difficult one to settle.

I told his Excellency that I thought that if the Russian Government announced that they would not countenance any Russian subject undertaking any scientific mission, it would not be difficult to prevent expeditions, whether from Mongolia or elsewhere.

M. Isvolsky said that, on the contrary, those who were desirous of causing embarrassments to the Government might deliberately act in defiance of any prohibition. This seemed to me to be a far-fetched apprehension, but as there were many Representatives waiting to see his Excellency, and as my interview had already been a prolonged one, I told him that I should recur to the question on another occasion.

I noticed both in the few words which passed on this question, and also in the conversation which I had with M. Isvolsky on the subject of the occupation of the Chumbi Valley, that his Excellency has somewhat changed his attitude, and I think it will be necessary that I should explain to him very clearly our relative positions in respect to Thibet. I shall have an opportunity of doing so when I hand him our amendments to his draft Convention; but it seems to me desirable that he should not remain under his apparent present impression, that Russia is exactly on the same footing as Great Britain in regard to Thibet. He had not this impression at the commencement of our discussions, but I imagine he has taken it from those with whom he has been in consultation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.



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No. 9.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 7.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 5th instant, relative to the payment of the Thibet indemnity.

*India Office, January 7, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 9.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*January 5, 1907.*

YOUR telegram dated the 27th ultimo.

Comptroller-General, Calcutta, should be payee of telegraphic transfer from Shanghai of instalment of Thibet indemnity due 1st instant.

(Repeated to His Majesty's Minister at Peking.)

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No. 10.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 7.)*

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*St. Petersburg, January 5, 1907.*

I COMMUNICATED to Minister for Foreign Affairs revised draft of Article II of proposed Convention in regard to Thibet, with verbal explanations. I had a long conversation with him, a report on which I will send by next bag. His attitude was satisfactory, but he objected to certain passages as showing signs of mistrust. After discussing the matter, he suggested that if the word "disturb" could be modified, or eliminated, paragraph 2, relative to the special interests of Great Britain, might be formed into a preamble. I said that before the next messenger left I would endeavour to draw up a formula, which I would submit to him. I would thus be able to communicate it to you, together with his observations, but before submitting it to him, I will, of course, telegraph it to you.

I did all I could to make our position as regards Thibet as clear as possible. Though he did not like the precautionary clauses in paragraph 3, I think I shall induce him to give his consent to them.

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No. 11.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 7.)*

(No. 4.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*St. Petersburg, January 5, 1907.*

M. ISVOLSKY inquired to-day whether His Majesty's Government would be disposed to make some reference to the *status quo* in Mongolia when once the bases of our future agreement had been generally settled.

I said that I could not give him a reply to this question, but I would, if he wished, consult you; that it was to me quite a new idea, and that my first impression was that the Chinese Government might request explanations of an interference in matters in which she alone was interested. M. Isvolsky replied that it was merely a suggestion on his part, and asked me not to consult you at present.

I will send a report on our conversation by bag.

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No. 13\*.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 9.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 29th November, relative to the movements of Mr. Chang.

*India Office, January 8, 1907.*


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 Inclosure 1 in No. 13\*.
*Lieutenant Campbell to Political Officer in Sikkim.*

(Extract.)

*Camp Phari, October 30, 1906.*

MR. CHANG left Phari on the morning of the 27th instant. He paid for all wood and grass supplied. The Chinese party were accommodated in the yamên. Mr. Henderson stayed with me at the bak dungalow. There appears to be little prospect of Mr. Chang returning to India before next spring, as he talks vaguely of important business at Lhasa, and will probably remain there for some months. Mr. Chang has distributed some 500 rupees largesse in the Chumbi Valley. Mr. Henderson told him that it was hopeless for him to compete with Colonel Younghusband, who, he said, had distributed 10,000 rupees in one day.

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 Inclosure 2 in No. 13\*.
*Trade Agent at Gyantse to Foreign Secretary, Simla.*

(Telegraphic.)

*November 2, 1906.*

HENDERSON and Chang have to-day arrived. I will call on Chang on the 5th instant. Addressed to Foreign at Simla; repeated to Foreign with the Viceroy, at camp of Viceroy.

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 Inclosure 3 in No. 13\*.
*Political Officer, Sikkim, Chumbi, to Foreign Secretary, Calcutta.*

(Telegraphic.)

*November 21, 1906.*

ON the 18th instant Chang left Gyantse for Lhasa. Addressed Foreign with Viceroy, and repeated to Foreign at Calcutta.



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No. 12.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 7.)*

(No. 5.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*St. Petersburg, January 7, 1907.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 3 of the 5th January, respecting the Thibet Convention, I think that a preamble conceived somewhat in the following terms would be one which the Minister for Foreign Affairs might be disposed to consider:—

The two High Contracting Parties have agreed upon the following five Articles in view of the special interest which Great Britain has, by reason of her geographical position, in the external relations of Thibet, and in view of the desire of Great Britain and Russia to arrive at an understanding on the subject.

Possibly he might ask that we should insert a phrase alluding to the common interests of both countries in religious matters, but as these questions are fully treated in Article II, I would, with your leave, decline to accept such a proposition.

Do you wish any modifications inserted in the above preamble, and, subject to these, will you allow me to communicate it to him?

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No. 13.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, January 8, 1907.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 2nd instant, I am directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to transmit to you herewith, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India, the draft of a telegram which it is proposed to address to His Majesty's Minister at Peking,\* inquiring what are the boundaries of Thibet recognized by the Chinese Government.

Sir E. Grey is of opinion that anything in the nature of negotiations with the Chinese Government on this subject would probably result only in loss of time, and he considers, therefore, that it would be preferable that Sir J. Jordan should be instructed merely to make a simple inquiry on the matter. This would appear to be the course contemplated by the Government of India in their telegram of the 16th December, to which I am to invite attention. Sir E. Grey is the more inclined to the adoption of this course since the question of the boundaries of Thibet does not appear to have been referred to by the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs in his more recent communications with Sir A. Nicolson, and it may be that his Excellency is no longer pressing for any precise definition.

I am to request that you will inform me whether Mr. Morley concurs in the terms of the proposed telegram.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

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No. 14.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 11.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 29th November, relative to Mr. Bell's recent visit to the Tashi Lama at Shigatse.

*India Office, January 10, 1907.*



## Inclosure in No. 14.

*Mr. Bell to the Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Gyantse (Gangtok), November 10 (17), 1906.*

WITH reference to the correspondence resting with your telegram, dated the 26th ultimo, on the subject of my visit to Shigatse, I have the honour to report herewith the substance of my two conversations with the Tashi Lama—one on the 3rd, the other on the 6th instant—so far as they related to political affairs.

2. The Tashi Lama said that he suspected the Chinese at Lhasa would try to do him an injury if they could, on account of his visit to India. Fortunately, he had recently received a letter from the Emperor of China, in which he was informed that he would not be punished. (This has been recently reported by me.) Accordingly, even if Mr. Chang, at the instigation of the Chinese in Lhasa, should issue any fresh orders in the matter adverse to him (the Tashi Lama), he proposed to pay no attention to them.

3. He feared, however, that the Chinese or the Lhasa Government might invent some fresh pretext to injure him. Provided that no serious necessity occurred, he would not trouble the Government of India, but if unfortunately such necessity should arise, he would write to Government and explain the case. At his meeting with his Excellency the Viceroy in Calcutta, the latter had promised him assistance ("ro-ram che-ki-yin"), and had said that if his officers wanted weapons ("lak-cha"), i.e., arms and ammunition, they could have what they wanted. [A few days previously the Tashi Lama's Prime Minister (Gyap-ying Lhumpo) informed Lama Shabtung, the British Trade Agent's Thibetan clerk, that the Viceroy had told the Tashi Lama that he could not promise him any other kind of assistance except arms and ammunition, of which he might have as much as he liked.]

4. I replied that the Viceroy had said that the Chinese Government had been informed by the British Government of the nature of the Lama's visit, and that his Excellency could not conceive that the Chinese Government would proceed to any acts of oppression on account of the visit, but that, if they should do so it would be regarded as an act of gross discourtesy to a friendly nation, and that his Excellency believed that in such circumstances the British Government would use their good offices on his behalf with China. As regards fire-arms, what the Viceroy had said was, this question was too remote to be considered at present; and that his Excellency, on his part, hoped that the Lama would use his great influence in Thibet to maintain good relations and prevent friction.

5. The Lama said that my version as to what had passed between the Viceroy and himself was no doubt correct, and that he, on his part, would always do his best to maintain good relations between the British and Thibetans, that his power extended only over a small portion of Thibet,\* but that in this portion he would see that good relations were maintained. Finally, he thanked me for coming to Shigatse and for hearing what he had to say.

6. I informed the Lama that I would report to Government all that he had said, and that in these cases I had no powers of decision, my business being simply to report to Government.

7. The above is the substance of the conversation that took place between the Tashi Lama and myself on his general political position. While on this subject, I should state that there can be no doubt that the power of the Tashi Lhumpo Government in Thibet has been increased on account of the friendship between the Tashi Lama and ourselves. Although we do not interfere in the internal administration of Thibet, it is clear that Lhasa, through fear that the Tashi Lama may invoke our assistance, is afraid to subordinate Tashi Lhumpo to her wishes, as formerly was the case. For instance, before the recent Thibet Mission, when any case of importance occurred between a tenant of Lhasa and a tenant of Tashi Lhumpo, the case was tried in Lhasa and the Tashi Lhumpo tenant had to attend there. Recently the Tashi Lhumpo Government has refused to send their tenants to Lhasa, and the Lhasa Government has been afraid to insist. Formerly, also, the Lhasa Government used occasionally to fine Tashi Lhumpo; this is not done now.

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\* He controls four jongs and a considerable amount of landed property, an area large in itself, but small in comparison with the whole of Thibet.



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No. 15.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 11.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 6th December, relative to Thibet affairs.

*India Office, January 10, 1907.*

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Inclosure 1 in No. 15.

*Major Manners-Smith to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Nepal Residency, November 11, 1906.*

IN continuation of the correspondence ending with my letter dated the 29th October, 1906, I have the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, the translation of a news-letter from the Nepalese Representative at Lhasa, together with a translation of its inclosure, sent to me by his Excellency the Prime Minister of Nepal.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

*Letters from the Nepalese Representative at Lhasa.*

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

WITH due respect I beg to inform your Highness that I went the other day to the Potala with some presents consisting of edibles which it was customary to take to the Potala Lama on the occasion of our "Dasain" festivity. In the absence of the Potala Lama, the procedure followed is to lay the presents before the throne, on which the "dagam" (overcoat) of the said Lama which he wore while engaged in divine meditation is placed. This we did on the present occasion also and returned. I received from the Thibetan Government the usual return present, consisting of one piece of woollen cloth, one "khata" (silk scarf), and some "prashad" (religious offering) known as "sundi."

From informations received the two Amba appear to be in no way friendly with each other. A clerk of the yamên says that the other day, after their return from the temple of "Bhamari Devata," the new Assistant Amba sent a message to the Yutarin Amba to the effect that he would call at the latter's yamên to pay his respects to him. Yutarin sent a courteous reply to the message saying that the Assistant Amba might have felt tired by his visit to the said Temple, so he might postpone the visit to some other day. To this Lyantarin sent back a message that he would come that very day, although his presence was not desired by Yutarin. The latter thereupon put himself in readiness to receive him and sent him words to the effect that he was ready. Lyantarin Amba's reply to this last message was that he could not go to him that day. Yutarin Amba was very much put out at this, and his feelings towards Lyantarin have become more strained than before.

With due respect I beg to report to your Highness that when I went to the new Assistant Amba with some presents, consisting of edibles, on the occasion of our great "Dasain" festivity, after exchange of compliments was over, I told him that the presents were nothing more than tokens of my regard for him. The Amba said that it was kind of me to bring him the presents, and then went on putting several

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questions to me, which I have noted down below with my answers to them, for your Highness' information :—

*Amba.*—The British also go on making improvements in their fire-arms and continue manufacturing such weapons as are considered to be of greater service. To what extent do the British show cordiality towards your Government?

*I.*—My Government have always worked within their proper bounds in their dealings with the British, and the attitude of the latter being also the same towards us, all business concerning the two Governments have been going on in the same line as it had been from the very beginning, and the relations between them have all along been quite cordial.

*Amba.*—It is good that the Administration of your country, both in the civil and military line, is in perfect order. These British are not nowadays like the other Europeans. They are quarrelsome, selfish, and faithless, and are first class in deceiving or betraying others. So your Government would do well to be careful with them.

*I.*—The Administration of our country being perfect in every way under the able guidance of our Maharajah, although our frontier is contiguous with British territory for a long distance, the British have not so far showed any such qualities in their dealings with us.

*Amba.*—If that is so, well and good. The Administration of the country should be good, both in the civil and military departments.

*I.*—Yes, it is so under the able guidance of our Maharajah, and in consequence we, people, are quite happy and contented. The year before the last there was such a great disturbance in Thibet, and the matter concerning the same does not yet appear to have smoothed down. I hope you will try to settle it in a way as would be beneficial to all concerned, and bring on harmony and friendship among them. May I now take leave of you to-day?

*Amba.*—We, the Ambas, are in duty bound to consider deeply this question, and we shall do it in consultation amongst ourselves.

The Amba then as a memento from him gave me a roll of "kochin" (silk) cloth containing 8 khagams or yards, one silver plate, and one sota "khata" (silk scarf), and to the officers who accompanied me one silver plate and one "khata" each. He also gave 40 and 15 Thibetan mohars respectively to my sepoy and the men who carried my presents (sweetmeats, spices, &c.) to him. After this, I took leave of the Amba and returned to my residence.

I remember to have heard it said some time ago that the old Yutarin Amba had also spoken to the Thirring Pochhe Lama to the effect that the British, unlike other Europeans, were quarrelsome and selfish, and so the Thibetans should be careful lest they would lead them astray. It is the same thing which the new Assistant Amba has told me. From this I conclude that it is only the power of the British Government for which the Chinese make any show of friendship with them, but that inwardly the latter seemed to be rather disaffected with them.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 15.

*Diary of Officiating Political Officer in Sikkim for the Month of October 1906.*

(Confidential.)

(Extract.)

3rd.—At Chumbi. I called in the leading Chumbi Valley traders for an interview. They say that they have done well this year. They rejoice at not having to pay trade dues at Phari. They have two minor grievances—one that they are impressed for load carrying in Sikkim and Kalimpong, the second that their servants steal small quantities of wool and dispose of it to dishonest receivers on the road. The first grievance I am taking steps to remove; the second I hope to be able to mitigate. They also complain—a complaint which I knew was bound to come before long—that the Marwari traders outbid them at Phari in the purchase of wool. This is the natural result of doing away with their former monopoly of buying at Phari and selling at Kalimpong, a monopoly for which they used to bribe the Lhasa Government heavily before the Thibet Mission. The introduction of free trade at Phari will of course increase the trade by degrees. I therefore held out to them no hope of action in this respect, but told them that they could keep me informed how far their



trade suffers in this respect. We want free trade, but we do not want to ruin the Chumbi Valley traders in its introduction, nor do I think this will happen, as the change will be gradual. The Chumbi Valley men will always have some advantage over the Marwaris, in that they can stand the Phari climate better and can more easily catch Thibetan debtors, who abscond into Thibet without paying either in goods or cash. And, other things being equal, the Thibetans will always be more inclined to deal with them.

17th.—At Gyantse. Buda La, the Tashilhunpo Treasurer who was at Kham-bajong, and the Pende Kangsa Dronyer (Assistant Private Secretary) of the Tashi Lama called on me with a ceremonial scarf and presents from the Tashi Lama and scarves and presents from themselves. The Dronyer had already at Chumbi conveyed to me a request from the Tashi Lama that I would visit him at Shigatse. They both now repeated the invitation, and were obviously pleased when I accepted it. We discussed various matters. The Shigatse authorities are evidently, as I had previously ascertained, greatly perturbed over Chang's visit to Thibet.

18th.—The Manager of the Phala estate near Gyantse called to-day to pay his respects and to arrange a visit for me to the Phala estate at Drongtse, where I am to go to-morrow. The Penkang Dronyer called again about various matters. I inspected part of Mr. Bailey's work and settled various matters with him.

27th.—Mr. Dover, State Engineer, and I went to Drongtse, 12 miles, *en route* to Shigatse, passing under Gyantse Jong. It appears that the Thibetans received a verbal assurance from Colonel Younghusband that the rebuilding of jongs would not be against the Convention, since they are used as residences. But fortification walls have been built at Gyantse in addition to the residential quarters, and these are clearly forbidden by the Convention. On the whole, there can, I think, be no doubt that the Thibetans have violated the Convention by building these walls, and they themselves did not venture to argue to the contrary, when this was pointed out to them as a violation in the Government letter of last January. It is too late now to take any steps to have the fortification walls demolished, but the facts should be kept on record as a clear violation by the Thibetans of the Lhasa Convention.

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No. 16.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 11.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated 15th November, 1906, relative to the question of allowing missionary doctors to travel in Thibet.

*India Office, January 10, 1907.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 16.

*Government of India to Resident, Kashmir.*

Sir,

*Simla, November 14, 1906.*

IN continuation of the indorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, dated 17th September last, I am directed to forward a copy of the letter, and to state that the Government of India are not disposed to permit missionary doctors to travel in Thibet at present.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. H. S. CLARKE.



## Inclosure 2 in No. 16.

*Assistant Commissioner, Kulu, to Government of India.*

Sir,

October 11, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 17th September last, requesting my opinion as to whether the people of Western Thibet are anxious to receive medical treatment and would welcome the arrival of a medical man. This letter was sent to Lahul to meet me, and, as I returned through Spiti, it only reached me yesterday.

2. Throughout my journey of about 620 miles in Thibet I only came across considerable collections of people at Thok Dalung and Rudok, elsewhere the population is exceedingly sparse and widely scattered, and accordingly an itinerating medical man would find little to do. I estimate that the whole population of the Indus Valley and Northern Lake district does not exceed 4,000, and, as the climate of Thibet is cold and dry, disease is comparatively rare.

There is, however, a small need for surgical treatment, particularly for eye affections.

Thus the number of patients to be treated is very small.

3. The people were everywhere friendly to me, and, I think, would bring their sick to a medical man. During the seventy days I spent in Thibet hardly any cases were brought to the hospital assistant who accompanied me, but this was partly because he could not deal with eye cases in the course of a rapid tour.

4. If, then, a medical man visited Western Thibet, he would desire to go to Rudok and Thok Dalung. There might be opposition to his visiting the latter place, as the officials are suspicious, and the people (gold-diggers) so very superstitious, that they might resent the presence of a European as likely to cause bad luck.

At Rudok there is a lama, Dzangpon, and three or four monasteries, of which the lamas were somewhat unfriendly. But I do not think the medical man would experience opposition here, especially if he were tactful and avoided all risk of offending the lamas.

5. I am of opinion that Moravian missionaries, who have had a medical training and who know the language, should be allowed to make short incursions into Thibet. A member of the Leh Mission might be allowed to go to Rudok (but no further at present), and Mr. Schnabel, the missionary at Poo, might be given sanction to go on a short visit to Shiphi and Tsaparang. The bulk of the people are not opposed to British intervention, and would not object to more of us visiting their country if they were well treated. The Moravian missionaries are well known for their great tact and kindness and for their excellent relations with the people, and their knowledge of the language will go far to establish friendly relations with the Thibetan villagers. They should, however, for the present, confine themselves to medical work.

6. In order to avoid possible causes of quarrel, the doctors allowed to enter Thibet should be carefully selected in consideration of their experience and knowledge of the people and acquaintance with the language. It would not be advisable for them to go to Gartok, as there is now a hospital assistant there, and it would be hardly fair to him to allow a European to compete with him for popularity.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) H. CALVERT.

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No. 17.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 12.)*

Sir,

India Office, January 11, 1907.

IN reply to Sir F. Campbell's letter of the 8th instant, transmitting the draft of a preamble to the proposed Anglo-Russian Agreement respecting Thibet, proposed by Sir A. Nicolson in his telegram No. 5 of the 7th January, I am directed to say that Mr. Secretary Morley concurs in Sir E. Grey's proposal to approve Sir A. Nicolson's suggestions.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.



[1916]

No. 18.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 9.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, January 13, 1907.*

IN the course of the negotiations with Russia, the question of the boundaries of Thibet has arisen.

In the opinion of the Government of India the Kuenlun and Nanshan mountain ranges form the northern boundary of the country, while the districts in the vicinity of Tsaidam, which are under the direct administration of the Chinese, and China proper form the eastern boundary.

Can you ascertain privately whether the boundaries which China recognizes on the north are as stated by the Government of India, also whether China has any special claims on Eastern Thibet?

The Russian Government are prepared to accept the boundaries recognized by China.

[1394]

No. 19.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 14.)*

(No. 9.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Peking, January 13, 1907.*

THIBET.

Please refer to your telegram No. 227 of the 28th December, 1906, and my telegram No. 2 of the 2nd instant.

The text of Chang's telegraphic reply has been communicated to me by the Wai-wu Pu. According to his statement, he received complaints from the Thibetans, on his way to Gyantse, that Indian sowars there and at Chumbi were paying short for supplies and demanding transport in an irregular manner. Beverly [?], with whom he discussed the matter, agreed to prohibit strictly such malpractices.

The occurrence of difficulties owing to difference of language had been anticipated, and both parties had agreed that such difficulties as might arise should be settled then and there with the Chinese Trade Agent, and that the British authorities should be notified from time to time as to the price of supplies. No obstacle had been placed in the way of direct dealings between the British authorities and the people of Thibet.

In conclusion, Chang states that his subordinate at Gyantse has been instructed to report and settle amicably with the British authorities all questions that may arise.

The above has been repeated to the Government of India.

[1395]

No. 20.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 14.)*

(No. 10.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Peking, January 13, 1907.*

THIBET.

Please refer to your telegram No. 228 of the 31st December, 1906, and my telegram No. 3 of the 5th instant.

The Chinese Government have communicated to me the text of Chang's telegraphic reply. He denies having ever made any announcement that the opening of the trade marts dated from the 14th November, 1906, and asserts that he sent a written notification to the Indian Government that the date in question was the 1st January, 1905.

(Repeated to the Government of India.)

[1722]

E



[1683]

No. 21.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 15.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 10th instant, relative to the Thibet trade marts.

*India Office, January 14, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 21.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, January 10, 1907.*

THIBET trade marts.

Your telegram of the 27th ultimo.

I should be glad if information asked for by His Majesty's Minister at Peking, in his telegram No. 3 of the 5th instant, could be furnished by you.

[1357]

No. 22.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 6.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, January 15, 1907.*

SUGGESTED preamble to Thibet Convention in your telegram No. 5 of the 7th instant.

I agree to action proposed.

[1732]

No. 23.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 16.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of Sikkim Diary for the period of the 1st to 30th November, 1906, Gyantse Diary for the period of the 25th November to the 15th December, 1906.

A copy has been sent to the Director of Military Operations.

*India Office, January 15, 1907.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

*Diary of Lieutenant F. M. Bailey, Officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for the Week ending December 1, 1906.*

November 30, 1906.—Mr. Gow wishes me to deal with the Thibetans through him, but I have refused to do so, until I have received orders. To-day the two Jongpens came to see me alone, but they had evidently first asked Mr. Gow's permission to come. Mr. Gow and Mr. Sung dined with me this evening.

December 1.—Since Mr. Chang's arrival, the peasants of the neighbourhood have refused to be vaccinated. Owing to the rumour that we are to evacuate Gyantse, all Thibetans are afraid to have any dealings whatever with us.

Mr. Gow has told me that Mr. Chang has sent proposals in to the Chinese Government regarding the Government of Thibet. These include the posting of



10,000 Chinese troops in Thibet, and also the abolition of all the Chinese "popons" in Thibet.

Mr. Gow tells me that the Chinese Foreign Office notified his appointment here to the British Ambassador about the 20th November.

(Signed) F. M. BAILEY, Lieutenant,  
Officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantse.

Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

*Diary kept by Lieutenant F. M. Bailey, Officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for the Week ending December 8, 1906.*

December 2, 1906.—No events.

December 3.—I had lunch with Mr. Gow to-day. The two Jongpens came over to see me about supplies. This evening I received a letter from Mr. Gow saying that I had broken the Treaty by asking the Jongpens to supply transport on payment for two vaccinators whom Lieutenant Stewart was sending to Kala to vaccinate owing to the outbreak of small-pox in Chumbi.

December 4, Kangmar.—Before leaving I sent Mr. Gow a reply to his letter. An extremely strongly worded reply was received from Mr. Gow, and telephoned to me here this evening. Mr. Gow wrote that he would order the Jongpens not to send in some supplies, regarding which I have the Jongpens' written assurance that they will be sent.

December 5, Samoda.—No events.

December 6, Kala.—No events.

December 7, Tuna.—I found Rai Sahib Lobjan here on his way up to survey the proposed site for the new British Trade Agency at Gyantse. I have heard on the telephone that Mr. Gow is more reasonable, and in spite of the threat contained in his letter supplies are coming into Gyantse.

December 8, Phari.—No events.

(Signed) F. M. BAILEY, Lieutenant,  
Officiating British Trade Agent, Gyantse.

[1701]

No. 24.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 16.)*

(No. 10.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*St. Petersburg, January 15, 1907.*

I RECEIVED to-day from the Minister for Foreign Affairs a draft preamble to the Thibet Convention; it was communicated not as a formal proposal but for my guidance in discussing the subject with you, and is, I consider, preferable to that suggested by me in my telegram No. 5 of the 7th instant.

He also communicated to me informally a modified form of paragraph 3 of the revised draft of Article II, which treats of the relations between the Thibetan authorities and the British and Russian Buddhists.

I am sending these proposed modifications, together with a copy of the preamble, by bag on Thursday.

[1916]

No. 25.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 17.)*

Sir,

*India Office, January 16, 1907.*

IN reply to Sir F. Campbell's letter of the 8th instant, with reference to the boundaries of Thibet, I am to say that Mr. Secretary Morley shares Sir E. Grey's view as to the inexpediency of opening anything in the nature of negotiations with the Chinese Government on this subject.



The draft telegram to Sir J. Jordan which is inclosed in the letter under reply appears to Mr. Morley to carry out the suggestion made in Sir A. Godley's letter of the 2nd instant, and I am to express his concurrence in its terms.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

[1980]

No. 26.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 18.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 13th December, relative to the practical working of the Lhasa Convention of 1904.

*India Office, January 17, 1907."*

Inclosure in No. 26.

*Captain O'Connor to Government of India.*

*Windsor Hotel, Victoria Street, London,  
April 27, 1906.*

IT has occurred to me that after twelve months' residence in Thibet as British trade agent at Gyantse it might be of interest were I to place upon record my views regarding the practical working up to date of the Lhasa Convention of September 1904 (more especially as it affects our commercial relations with Thibet), and as to the means which we might adopt with a view to further developing and encouraging our trade with that country.

2. The latest trade returns to which I have access (see the last Reports on the external trade of Bengal with Nepal, Sikkim, and Thibet, and Mr. C. A. Bell's Diaries from the Chumbi Valley) show that on the whole the Thibet-Bengal trade, after the evacuation of Thibet by our troops in October 1904, evinced a healthy normal growth, but was not characterized by any remarkable expansion beyond what might be expected after the complete stagnation of the previous twelve months or so. It is possible, of course, that the figures for the trade for the last year may display an advance very much in excess of any previous returns; but my own observations, coupled with the information received from traders and others, lead me to suppose that such will not be the case; and although no doubt some expansion will be observable it will probably not exceed in degree what one might generally expect from the normal growth of a healthy traffic unimpeded by any specially vexatious restrictions. And what I have said regarding the trade of Thibet with Bengal applies equally to that with the United Provinces and the Punjab.

3. But although such small development is in itself a healthy and satisfactory proof both of the vitality of the trade and of the re-establishment of normal conditions after so severe a period as that covered by the Thibet Mission, it is very far from reaching the sum total of the advantages which we might have expected to reap in Thibet as the result of an elaborate diplomatic Mission, accompanied by a large armed escort, and involving to us a heavy cost in men and money, and to the Thibetans the loss of hundreds of lives and an immense destruction of private and Government property.

4. The objects of the Mission, as I regard them, were of a two-fold character; the first, the most important, was the breaking down of the formidable barrier of obstruction which had been raised against us by joint Chinese and Thibetan prejudice for many years and the anomalous and impossible state of affairs to which such obstruction gave rise, involving, amongst other things, the possibility of Russian intrigues being carried on in Lhasa without our knowledge, and rendering any correspondence of any nature whatsoever between the Indian and Lhasa Governments quite impracticable.

And the second object of our negotiations was the furtherance and development of our commercial relations with Thibet.



5. The extent to which we have succeeded in securing the first of these two aims, the political one, is beyond the scope of the object upon which I now have the honour to address you, and I do not propose to discuss it here.

6. As our second object—the commercial one—for undertaking the Mission into Thibet, I have indicated above that hitherto our exertions have not succeeded very materially in altering the pre-existing state of affairs. We have, it is true, secured certain Treaty rights—such as the opening of two fresh trade marts in Thibet and the establishment thereof of British trade agents, the abolition of arbitrary tolls and other restrictions by the Lhasa Government, and, generally speaking, a basis for a more satisfactory state of affairs than formerly pertained—but as yet these concessions have not apparently exercised any influence whatever upon the actual volume of the trade, or, what is even more important, upon the methods by which it is conducted. This is clearly an unsatisfactory state of affairs and represents a very inadequate return for all our exertions, and I propose now to endeavour to trace the actual causes which appear to preclude any considerable extension of trade in existing circumstances, and to indicate the methods which I should be disposed to recommend for the removal of such checks as still exist and for the creation of such facilities as would appear likely to conduce to the desired end.

7. The principal obstacles to the due development of our trade with Thibet at the present moment appear to me to be as follows:—

- (a.) Inadequate communications between Central Thibet and India.
- (b.) Monopoly by China of the tea trade with Thibet to the exclusion of Indian tea.
- (c.) Total absence of communications between India and South-Eastern Thibet, whereby the whole of the trade of Eastern Thibet is lost to us and is monopolized by China.

Other minor disabilities—such as the difficulties experienced by would-be traders and so on—will be referred to under these main headings, and there is no need to catalogue them separately. Let us, then, consider in turn these obstacles and the means by which it may be possible to remedy them.

8. *Obstacles to the Development of Trade with Thibet.* (a.) *Communications.*—(i.) *Between Central Thibet and India.* In a note dated the 13th April, 1903, I have already dealt as fully as was at that time possible with this question of communications between Thibet and India. In that note I pointed out that the natural outlet for trade from Central Thibet was across the Tang La and down the Chumbi Valley as far as Rinchengong. That at this point the natural difficulties of the valley rendered the continuation of a direct route southwards to the plains of India an impossible matter for the unskilled natives of the country, and that in consequence the traffic had to be diverted out of its natural channel to cross a 14,000 feet pass into Sikkim and to follow thence a difficult and laborious course to Kalimpong; and I argued that the construction of a good route down the Ammo Chu and Di Chu Valleys to the plains was clearly advisable in the interests of commerce as well as on grounds of policy and strategy. Since writing this note the country in question has been surveyed and an alignment for a cart road, following generally the course which I had indicated, has been marked out, and its cost has been estimated at some 60 lakhs of rupees.

There the matter still stands. I have no further arguments to adduce in favour of these new alignments in addition to those which I brought forward in my note quoted above. The pros and cons of the whole question were discussed therein at length, and my views met at the time with a very general acceptance. No circumstances, to the best of my belief, have arisen in the interval in any way to invalidate my conclusions. But as the construction of this road still hangs fire, and as the question of expense is apparently weighing the scales towards an unfavourable decision, I wish to point out at fuller length how very adverse an influence the present line of communications exercises upon our trade with Thibet, and how effectually it militates against any considerable extension. These adverse circumstances may be considered under the following headings:—

(1.) *Commercial Agents.*—It is clear that in arranging for a trade mart at Gyantse to which British and Indian merchants were to have free access, the Government of India must have contemplated the probability of the establishment at that place of branches from, or agents of British and Indian firms. An agent on the spot would be in a position to purchase wool, &c., direct from the producers, to export it to India on his own transport, and to sell it in India at a very much larger profit than can at present



be made by an agent at the trade mart at Kalimpong; and similarly he will realize a much larger profit on his imports of merchandize from India. In a word, he has eliminated the middleman and so adds the middleman's profits to his previous gains. And there are other obvious advantages to the man on the spot which will occur to any practical mind. But with the road as it is at present, quiet commercial men naturally look askance at an enterprise which involves so much hardship and risk, and which, on hearing a description of the road, they are inclined to regard as a sort of Antarctic expedition. Even hardy Thibetans born and bred in a country of mountains, regard the crossing of the Jelep and Nathu passes in the winter as a feat not to be lightly undertaken. The roadway is bad to the point of danger, snow lies deep and for many miles together, and blizzards are a constant menace to the wayfarer. The experiences of the Tashi Lama and the Sechung Shapé when crossing these passes this year will serve to illustrate my meaning. And beyond the passes in the Chumbi Valley we find a rugged path, obstructed by boulders and in winter by sheets of ice, so rough that in places it is positively unsafe for an equestrian, impeded by steep gradients, and unprovided with rest-houses of any description. Can we wonder then that a peaceful commercial man, who has never crossed anything more dangerous than a crowded street, hesitates to entrust his agent or his goods to the mercy of the elements at Alpine elevations or to pathways where a slip may mean destruction? In existing circumstances we cannot I think expect any firm to send agents to Gyantse or to endeavour to supply its own transport in Thibet; and until we effectually improve the present line of communications our "Trade Mart" at Gyantse will remain a dead letter, and our only "Trade Agent" at the place will be the British official now stationed there by Government.

In case it may be argued that trade should be conducted during the summer months when there is no snow on the passes or ice on the roads, I would point out that the heavy rainfall of these districts renders a trade in wool (the staple commodity) during the summer an impossibility, and in most other commodities a serious difficulty, and that, moreover, no Thibetan or Chumbi man will face the steaming pestilential valleys of Sikkim during the hot weather.

(2.) *Transport.*—The present hill tracks render the use of mules obligatory from Kalimpong to Rinchengong and thence to Phari, and mule traffic is inevitably more expensive than cart freights. Mr. C. A. Bell\* reckons the cost of the carriage of goods from Siliguri to Rinchengong at about 4.6 rupees per maund,† whilst from the Bengal Doars Railway to Rinchengong by a cart road up the Di Chu and Ammo Chu it would be some 2 rupees per maund—a very material difference. This heavy imposition alone renders any considerable expansion of trade by the existing roads a very difficult matter. Carts are, moreover, apart from the question of expense, a very much more convenient and safer means for transporting goods than are pack animals.

(3.) *Trade Marts.*—The present road entails the use of Kalimpong as a trade mart, and here Thibetan and Indian traders meet and exchange goods. But Kalimpong is far from being an ideal or even a satisfactory emporium for trade. It is situated at the top of a spur some 4,000 feet high, which is reached from both sides—either from India or from Thibet—by a steep and exhausting ascent, and is, too, by no means centrally situated as a trade mart should be, being too far from Thibet and too close to India, and the consequence is that a race of middlemen (the Chumbi Valley people) has come into existence who monopolize the carriage of goods and swallow a great share of the profits without benefiting either the producer or the purchaser. Gangtok on the Nathu La road is, as I have already pointed out in a previous communication, even more unsuited to be a trade mart than is Kalimpong.

These then are the principal drawbacks which are presented by the use of the present line of communications, and they appear to me to be of so serious a nature that I think I am warranted in again expressing my opinion that so long as we continue to use this road no material development of our commercial relation with Thibet can be expected. It remains then to consider what we can do to effect an improvement. The answer, I think, is clear: to construct a cart road from Phari down the Chumbi Valley to Rinchengong and then to the plains of India via the Ammo Chu and Di Chu Valleys. At the risk of seeming tedious I will recapitulate the argument which I have already brought forward more than once in favour of this scheme.

\* See his letter dated April 21, 1905, to the Chief Secretary of the Bengal Government.

† During the present broken state of the Teesta Valley road this sum is much increased, but we may take Mr. Bell's estimate as a favourable minimum.



1. *Political*.—The facility which a road will afford for mutual intercourse between Thibet and India. The restraining influence which its existence will exert upon political feeling at Lhasa.

2. *Military*.—The immense strategical value of such a road in the event of future operations in Thibet.

3. *Commercial*.—The development of trade which may be expected to follow its construction, more especially in the case of the tea trade of which more below.

4. *Trade Marts*.—Either Rinchengong or Phema in the Chumbi Valley would then be available as trade marts instead of Kalimpong, and both are in every way well suited for such a purpose. They are fairly central, spacious enough for buildings, and are situated at an elevation suited alike to Europeans, Thibetans, or Indians.

I refrain from expatiating further on these headings, but would refer to my previous communications on the subject of these roads, and to the very interesting letter of Mr. Bell which has been quoted above.

I might add here that I have reason to believe that a project has been advanced for the construction of a road over the Temo La from Phari into Bhutan, and so through Bhutan to the plains. This plan presents so many serious disadvantages that it seems scarcely necessary to indicate them, but for fear the execution of the more obvious project may be delayed by the consideration of this other scheme, I would point out:—

1. That the Temo La lies 1,500 feet higher than Phari (that is to say at an elevation of over 16,000 feet), and that any objections which apply to the passes into Sikkim which are only 14,000 feet apply with so much greater force to the Temo La.

2. That the Temo La on the Bhutanese side is rocky, steep, and very ill-adapted to road construction.\*

3. That the road would run almost throughout through Bhutanese territory. In the present case of Bhutanese politics this latter seems to me to be an overwhelming objection to the proposed road. In spite of our friendship with the Tongsa Penlop the fact remains that the Tongsa represents only one out of two or more political factions in Bhutan. The leader of the other principal faction, the Paro Penlop, has always been consistently ill-disposed towards us, and were it in his power to do so would undoubtedly prejudice our interests in any way he could. At present he can do nothing but sulk, but with our only high road to Thibet passing through or skirting his territory in its entire length he might very easily create an embarrassing situation, and would at any rate always remain a potential thorn in our sides. The case of the Di Chu-Ammono Chu road, however, is widely different. This line passes through only an outside corner of Bhutan, very sparsely inhabited (Mr. Bell estimates the population about 1 square mile), and which, owing to its proximity to British territory, would always remain far more amenable to British than to Bhutanese influences. It would then, in my opinion, be the height of political unwisdom to go out of our way to take our prospective, commercial, and strategical highway through the centre of a semi-civilized hill State like Bhutan, where it would be subjected to any vicissitudes of the ever-changing local politics, when we can more simply and easily, by merely extending the present natural trade channel, carry it through a remote corner of the same territory where it will be under our virtual and indeed actual control—more especially when the former line involves the crossing of the difficult 16,000 ft. pass. If the question were merely one of making a good mule track from Phari through Bhutan to the plains of Assam, in order to subserve the purpose of local traffic I should be all in favour of the proposal—any such extension of communications in the hills being in my opinion highly desirable. But we are considering now a larger question altogether. I am endeavouring to regard the matter from the point of view of an Imperial policy rather than as a case of local trade or communications; and, looked at in this light, I cannot but think that the Ammono Chu-Di Chu road presents great and obvious advantages over any other line that has as yet been suggested.

My definite proposals, then, regarding the improvement of communications between Central Thibet and India are as follows:—

1. That the cart road from Phari to Rinchengong be completed as soon as possible. Some miles of this road were constructed during the occupation of the Chumbi Valley by our troops in 1903-1904, but since the withdrawal of the Mission no work at all (to

\* Reference might be made regarding this pass to Mr. H. H. Hayden, of the Geographical Survey, who has ascended to the summit, and has formed a good idea of its general configuration and the nature of the country beyond.



the best of my belief) has been done on this road, which has now relapsed in most places into its former villanous condition, and is so bad as to be unsafe for a mounted man in many parts. I am unable even roughly to compute the cost of such a road, but any trained engineer could provide the Government of India with this information in an approximate form after a preliminary survey. But what I now venture to represent to the Government of India is the fact that on the 1st January, 1908, our term of occupation of the Chumbi Valley will terminate (unless certain unforeseen events, upon which we cannot count, occur before that date), and that once we leave the valley it will be difficult, and may prove impossible, for us to carry out work which should have been accomplished during our term of occupation. Road work at these elevations being impossible during the winter months, we have now two seasons—May to October of this year, and April to October of next year—during which we might possibly be able to carry the project to completion. But in order to do so it is essential that a decision should be come to on the matter as soon as possible, and that its execution should be commenced without a day's unnecessary delay.

2. That a cart road be constructed from Rinchengong down the line of the Ammo Chu and Di Chu to the plains of India to meet the Bengal Dooars Railway near Nagrakata Station. And I would claim for this project that it has many and weighty advantages to recommend it, and that from a financial point of view the expansion of trade which we may expect to result from the construction of the roads which I am proposing will, to a great extent, justify the cost.

(ii.) *Between Western Thibet and India.*—A healthy traffic amounting to one-half of the whole of the Thibetan trade with India exists now between North-West and Thibet and the Punjab and United Provinces, the bulk of it reaching the United Provinces by the passes north of Almora, and our interests in Thibet are watched by a native trade agent stationed at our new trade mart at Gartok. In reviewing the circumstances of this trade, it would appear at first sight that owing to the extremely limited population of North-Western Thibet there cannot be sufficient purchasing power in that country ever to allow of any very considerable extension of the trade over its present figures. No doubt present exports—wool, salt, and borax—might be augmented to some degree, and Indian tea might (and probably will) supplant Chinese tea—but even so I should not be inclined ever to expect any large development, and should not at present recommend any ambitious policy with regard to road construction. But an improvement of the present mule roads is no doubt possible, and might be undertaken, and other minor details might be attended to. The policy as regards North-Western Thibet is, in fact, I consider, rather one which calls for the efforts of local officers than for any intervention or expenditure on the part of the Indian Government. And the same remarks apply with regard to Ladak.

9. *Question of the Tea Trade.*—The Thibetans, as is well known, are great tea-drinkers, and consume annually a very large quantity (estimated at from 20,000,000 to 30,000,000 pounds\*) of brick tea. The whole of this tea is at present imported to Thibet from China, and we have now to consider what measures appear to be indicated as likely to enable us to supplant China in this important industry.

The first and most important point is that in order to manufacture tea which will sell in the Thibetan markets we must learn to make it to suit local taste, and without expatiating further upon this obvious preliminary, I may note here that by the enterprise of the Indian Tea Cess Committee this difficulty has been faced, and, it is to be hoped, overcome. Their Commissioner, Mr. J. Hutchinson, has recently visited the Chinese Tea Gardens in the Province of Szechuan, where tea is grown and made into bricks for the Thibetan market, and has studied the methods of manufacture on the spot; and he has now embodied the results of his mission in a valuable and interesting pamphlet recently published.† It is, of course, not possible at this stage to say with certainty whether or no our Indian grown tea will ever, even if treated in the peculiar manner necessary for the Thibetan market, produce an article exactly suited to the Thibetan taste. But, at any rate, all that is possible has been, and is being done in this line, and the results should soon be apparent. Further experiment will, no doubt, in course of time, produce the exact qualities required, even if the first efforts should not be entirely successful.

\* See Mr. Hutchinson's pamphlet quoted below, p. 24.

† See "Indian Brick Tea for Thibet" Report on a mission to Szechuan, by James Hutchinson, M.B., 1906.



If, however, we may assume for the sake of argument that a certain quantity of tea can be manufactured in India suitable in all respects for the Thibetan market it still remains to consider whether or no we shall be able to undersell our Chinese rivals. Let us take Gyantse, our trade mart, as a test case, and consider first the cost of carriage per maund from the railhead to Gyantse :—

						Cost of Carriage per Maund.
						R. a. p.
Siliguri to Rinchengong .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	4 6 0
Rinchengong to Phari .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1 4 0
Phari to Gyantse .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1 14 0
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	7 8 0

and as each maund load contains actually some 60 lb. of tea when packed in skin in the usual manner, this gives us the rate of about two annas per lb. of tea for carriage from the railhead to Gyantse.

Given a cart road from the railway station on the Bengal Dooars Railway to Rinchengong and from Rinchengong to Phari we should have the following revised rates :—

						Cost of Carriage per Maund.
						R. a. p.
Railhead to Rinchengong .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2 0 0
Rinchengong to Phari .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	0 10 0
Phari to Gyantse .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1 14 0
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	4 8 0

Or about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  anna per lb. of tea.

Now the price of Chinese brick tea at Gyantse last April was as follows :—

						Price per lb.
						Rs. a. Rs. a.
1st class .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1 2 to 1 7
2nd class .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	10
3rd class .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	$8\frac{3}{4}$
4th class .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	$6\frac{1}{2}$

That is to say, that in order to realize a profit upon these four classes of tea—a technical description of which will be found in Mr. Hutchinson's pamphlet referred to above, pp. 39 and 40—they must be manufactured at a cost price of less than 1 to  $\frac{1}{2}$  rupees, 10 annas,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  annas, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  annas per lb. respectively, at the present rate of transport, and for sums exceeding these prices by  $\frac{1}{5}$ ths of an anna should a new road be constructed in the future. Whether or no this can be done is a technical question which no layman can pretend to answer, and which no doubt will require some investigation of the new methods on practical lines before the planters themselves will be able to give a definite opinion. But as these same qualities of teas are sold at a profit in Thibet after having been transported all the way from China—some 1,400 miles or so from Ya Chau, as compared with some 220 miles from the Dooars—it seems certain that it should be possible not only to undersell the Chinese merchants, but to realize a good profit into the bargain.

If we may suppose then that this is possible we may calculate upon securing for our Indian-made brick teas a large sale in Central Thibet. Assuming this sale for the sake of argument to equal one-fifth of the total import of tea into the country during



one year, we secure a new market consuming a total of 4,000,000 to 6,000,000 lb. of tea annually, and taking for choice a large quantity of the very coarsest tea, and even of tea twigs and branches which are at present useless for any purpose whatsoever. Now the two qualities of tea mostly consumed in Thibet are the 2nd and 3rd, priced at about 10 annas and  $8\frac{3}{4}$  annas per lb. respectively, or averaging about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  annas a lb. for the two. Taking this as the average price per lb. of all the brick tea entering Thibet we should arrive at a yearly total value for the tea trade of 22,50,000 to 33,75,000 rupees, a sum not to be despised. And if to this we add the value of the corresponding increase in the exports from Thibet to India—whether in wool, gold, treasure, or other commodities—we shall find that the profit upon such a growth of our present commerce would in a few years go far towards justifying the initial outlay of 60 lakhs or so upon a really suitable road.

The figures I have given here must of course be taken as only very roughly approximate, and as subject to large fluctuations. But still the solid fact remains that we are competing for a market which has a certain regular demand, and which beyond all contention will consume annually many hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of pounds of tea, provided that the tea is made to suit the local taste; that our gardens are only about one-seventh of the distance from the consumer of the Chinese gardens; and that we are now safe-guarded by the provisions of a Convention so framed as to prevent any obstruction or boycott of our teas or other commodities, or the levying upon them of any undue tariffs. I hold therefore that given some enterprise on the part of our planters and tea Associations (and there is every sign to show that this will not be lacking) and a reasonable encouragement on the part of the Government a very substantial benefit should accrue within a few years to one of the most deserving industries conducted within the confines of the Indian Empire. As to the form of encouragement which the Indian Government may fairly be expected to give I can only repeat that both in their own interests, and in those of the planting and mercantile communities generally, they can at present do nothing better than to connect India with Thibet by means of a good cart road; and failing such a cart road I regard the physical difficulties of the present trade route as so serious as practically to preclude any material development in tea or any other traffic.

10. *The Question of communications with South-Eastern Thibet.*—For my views regarding the great potential wealth of, and the possible value of, a commercial connection with South-Eastern Thibet, I would refer to my note, dated the 2nd March, 1906, proposing the systematic exploration of South-Eastern Thibet. It would be time when such an exploration had been brought to a successful conclusion to formulate its results and to make definite recommendations based upon the data obtained. If my ideas regarding this part of the world should prove to be even approximately correct, it seems clear that a line of communications leading into South-Eastern Thibet from Assam would not only give access to large and varied markets at present closed to us, but would afford an avenue for the export to India of hoards of mineral wealth now inaccessible and unworked except in the crudest manner even by the natives of the country. But this matter may be left to future decision based upon fuller knowledge. I merely refer to it here as a part of the problem of our commercial relations with Thibet as a whole.

11. Finally, I would refer to that clause of the Lhasa Convention which provides for the opening of fresh trade marts by mutual agreement between ourselves and the Thibetans should the development of trade require it. This clause, I imagine, was framed with a view, partly to meeting the possibility of the present trade marts proving unsuitable, and partly to provide for the opening of fresh marts in other parts of the country to meet the needs of an augmented trade or to tap fresh areas. This latter contingency has not (as shown in the earlier paragraphs of this letter) as yet occurred, and this aspect of the case may be left for discussion when the increase in the volume of the Thibetan trade, or the opening up of fresh districts call for further facilities. Should we open communications with South-Eastern Thibet, for instance, a trade mart in that part of the country would clearly be necessitated. But with reference to the suitability of the present trade marts, there is one matter to which I desire to call attention. When Gyantse was originally proposed as our trade mart for Central Thibet the suggestion was made under the impression that Gyantse was well situated for a commercial centre. The map showed that it lay at the junction of three important routes—those from India, Lhasa, and Shigatse—and it was naturally assumed that this situation probably implied that Gyantse was the recognized mart for the exchange of commodities coming from these three directions, and that only some



little encouragement would be required to make it a large and flourishing centre. But a more extensive acquaintance with Gyantse has brought to light the fact that it is in reality a place of but minor importance and is of practically no value as a commercial centre. One reason for this is that a great part of the trade passing between India and Lhasa does not go through Gyantse at all, but travels by the Kangma-Ralung route which is considerably shorter; and besides this, the importance of Gyantse is quite eclipsed by the more favourable situation of Shigatse which lies on the Brahmaputra, some 60 miles further north, Shigatse it now appears is particularly well placed for a trade centre. It is the meeting place of roads—

- (a.) From Lhasa via the Rong Valley.
- (b.) From Lhasa via the To-lung Valley.
- (c.) From Ladak.
- (d.) From the northern deserts whence comes the bulk of the wool, borax, and salt.
- (e.) From Nepal.
- (f.) From India and Gyantse.

Consequently merchandize is not bartered at Gyantse, but is carried direct to Shigatse where it changes hands and where reside all the Nepali and Ladaki merchants of this part of Thibet. None at all reside permanently at Gyantse, whereas there are numerous firms of both nationalities, as well as Chinese and Thibetans merchants, resident at Shigatse. This fact alone shows conclusively that Shigatse and not Gyantse is regarded as the true trade centre of this part of Thibet. The presence of a British trade agent at Gyantse may, it is true, attract some business to Gyantse, and may give that place a fictitious value. But even so it cannot ever expect to rival Shigatse, which, apart from commercial reasons, is politically by far the most important town in Thibet, with the one exception of Lhasa. I mention this fact solely with a view to the interests of our commercial relations with Thibet, and it might be borne in mind in considering that aspect of the present situation.

12. In conclusion, I may sum up my views of the general situation somewhat as follows:—

- (a.) That the development of our trade with Thibet since the conclusion of the Thibet Mission does not approach to what we might reasonably have expected as the result of so important a Mission and of such heavy expenditure.
- (b.) That the chief reason for this is the deplorable nature of the communications between India and Thibet.
- (c.) That of all these communications those with Central Thibet are the most important, and should be improved with as little delay as possible.
- (d.) That the best line for an improved road to take would appear to be down the line of the Chumbi Valley from Phari, following the Valleys of the Ammo Chu and Di Chu to the plains.
- (e.) That roads leading east or west out of the Chumbi Valley into Bhutan or Sikkim necessitate the crossing of lofty passes and are never likely to be of much value except as purely local undertakings, and that as long as they constitute our main commercial highway with Thibet no considerable development of the present trade can be expected.
- (f.) That the trade with North-Western Thibet is healthy, but does not appear likely ever to attain to any very considerable dimensions,\* and so its development may for the present be left to local efforts.
- (g.) That there are good future prospects for a trade with South-Eastern Thibet, but that this subject may be left for future consideration.
- (h.) That there is every prospect of an extensive and lucrative trade in Indian brick teas being developed with Thibet in the near future; the only encouragement for which, required from Government, being the construction of suitable communications.
- (i.) That should the question of opening fresh trade marts in Thibet ever arise, the strong claims of Shigatse to be constituted a trade mart should be borne in mind.

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\* Unless of course gold should be found in large and paying quantities, which would alter the whole situation completely.



Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

*Government of India to Captain O'Connor.*

Sir,

*Simla, November 20, 1906.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated London, 27th April, 1906, embodying a note on the practical working of the Lhasa Convention of September 1904 as affecting our commercial relations with Thibet, and on the means which might be adopted with a view to further developing and encouraging our trade with that country.

2. I am directed to inform you that your note has been read with interest, and that the information contained in it will be of much use.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) E. BARNES.

[1989]

No. 27.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 18.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 13th December, 1906, relative to trade in the Chumbi Valley.

*India Office, January 17, 1907.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 27.

*Government of India to Mr. White.*

*Simla, May 26, 1906.*

THE Government of India have had under consideration the question of the best methods to be adopted for the development of trade during the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley, and for rendering our trade marts as effective as possible within the limits of the Treaty.

2. Such new conditions as may arise out of improved communications and increased trade may probably be met without difficulty so long as the British occupation of the valley continues; whereas if the growth of trade is slow and only shows itself after evacuation, it may be more difficult then to provide facilities which are dependent on Thibetan and Chinese co-operation. So long as the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley continues, there is ground for hope that local Chinese opinion is likely to be favourably disposed towards any legitimate demands which we may make with a view to developing our trade. There is thus a special reason for losing no suitable opportunity of encouraging trade during the period of occupation; and the degree of success attained must depend in a large measure on the energy displayed by the Trade Agent at Gyantse and the Assistant Political Officer in Chumbi during this period.

3. I am therefore to request that you will submit, for the information of the Government of India, quarterly reports on the development of trade at Gangtok, Gyantse, and Chumbi noting specially the measures which have been taken to foster it.

Inclosure 2 in No. 27.

*Mr. Bell to Government of India.*

*Gangtok, September 20, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith the quarterly Trade Reports, received from the Assistant Political Officer, Chumbi, and the officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for the quarter ending the 30th June, 1906, and to supplement them with the following remarks and suggestions.



2. Before the Lhasa Convention, Mahomedan traders were allowed to trade between India and Thibet by Nepal only, where the bad roads and the customs duties levied by Nepal and Thibet interfered with trade. The opening of the trade route through Phari, without any such inconveniences and restrictions, is therefore appreciated by these traders, who are taking every advantage of it. They have often told me how much they appreciate it.

3. Lieutenant Campbell's suggestion to open "tea shops" at Phema, Chumbi, and Phari is one that may well be considered by the Indian Tea Cess Committee. The experiment may also be tried in Gyantse, where, Lieutenant Bailey reports, samples of Indian brick-tea were sold for 12 tankas a-brick, and which had the effect of reducing the price of the Chinese commodity.

4. The following are the rates for transport between Siliguri and Gyantse:—

	Per Maund.		
	Rs.	a.	p.
From Siliguri to Gangtok, on cart and pony, taking from eight to twelve days .. .. .	3	0	0
From Gangtok to Chumbi, taking four days—			
On coolies .. .. .	3	0	0
On mules .. .. .	3	12	0
From Chumbi to Phari, on coolies or mules .. .. .	2	2	0
From Phari to Gyantse—			
On ponies or mules, taking four days .. .. .	3	0	0
On donkeys, taking seven days .. .. .	1	0	0

The cost of transport, therefore, for the entire journey is from rupees 9 : 2 to rupees 11 : 2. But when the cart road between Siliguri and Gangtok becomes blocked for cart traffic the cost is increased. Lieutenant Bailey is of opinion that if carts were used on the road between Phari and Gyantse, which is now fit for the cart traffic, the cost of transport could be made cheaper. This, of course, would follow, but the initial expense in placing carts on this bit of the road, between which and Gangtok there is no cart road along which carts could be taken without difficulty and expense, would probably render even the cart rates high at first. The carts would have to be of a pattern suitable for mules, as draft cattle are not available in Thibet, and if brought up from Sikkim would not stand the climate. Ekkas could be employed with advantage as they are light, and can be taken to pieces and transported on coolies to the Lingmatang Plain from where there would be no difficulty in using them. But those interested in the wool trade, chiefly Marwaris, are not at present inclined to take up this experiment as there are, apart from the initial expense, difficulties in the way. The mules required for the carts, or ekkas, would have to be either purchased or hired, and the Thibetans who are at present engaged in the transport business would probably refuse to part with their animals or hire them, and thereby lose their present means of livelihood.

There would also be a certain amount of opposition from the Thibetans to such an innovation, which, however, could be overcome in time. I believe that a somewhat similar difficulty has been found in Ladakh, where traders have objected to the improvement of roads on the ground that better means of transport would increase competition and so injure their trade.

5. A statement of the trade with Thibet via Khambajong and the Lachen Valley is appended. The trade by this route as well as that passing over the Nathu La has been registered in Gangtok. The total trade with Thibet, therefore, for the quarter is:—

							Rupees.
Imports into India .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,19,124
Treasure .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	46,454
Exports from India .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,07,031
Treasure .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	88,180
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,60,789

The total for the corresponding period in 1905 was rupees 7 : 93 : 309, including treasure, or, if the value of the wool is taken at its true valuation, as has been done in the figure for imports into India above, rupees 8 : 64 : 309.



## Inclosure 3 in No. 27.

## RETURN of Trade with Thibet passing via Khambojong and the Lachen Valley, and registered at Gangtok.

							Rs.	a.	p.
April 1906—									
Imports ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,320	0	0
Treasure ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—		
Exports ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—		
May 1906—									
Imports ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,956	0	0
Treasure ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—		
Exports ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—		
June 1906—									
Imports ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90	0	0
Treasure ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—		
Exports ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72	0	0
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,438	0	0

September 20, 1906.

(Signed)

C. A. BELL.

## Inclosure 4 in No. 27.

## Chumbi Valley Quarterly Trade Report No. 1, for the Quarter ending June 30, 1906.

1. *General*.—A summary of the import and export trade which passed over the Nathu La during the quarter is given as Appendix I. As there are no figures for the corresponding period of last year available I have no remarks to offer. A comparative summary of trade passing through Yatung and over the Jelap La for the corresponding quarters of 1905 and 1906 is given as Appendix II.

2. *Trade by the Jelap La (Imports)*.—It will be seen that for each month the imports are less than for the corresponding month of last year. This is due almost entirely to the falling off in the quantity of piece goods imported into Thibet, both cottons and woollens. For some months traders have said that the Lhasa market is overstocked, and it may be inferred that the imports last summer were on too generous a scale and that sales have not been up to expectation. In spite of the falling off under this head there has been a great increase in the import of metals—notably iron: 146 maunds of iron sheets and 135 maunds of ironware were imported in April 1906, as against only four maunds of ironware and no sheets in April 1905. Sugar rose from 78 to 273 maunds. It is interesting to notice that Chinese goods are coming in more and more via Calcutta. The amount of silk piece goods is small—the principal officials are supplied by the Chinese Emperor's annual return present to the Dalai Lama. 23,400 Chinese caps were imported in June 1906, as against 600 in June 1905. The Chinese state that the price of Chinese goods at Lhasa has risen very much of late owing to the disturbed state of the Thibetan borderland about Batang and Litang.

3. *Tea*.—There is no mention of tea in the trade returns for the quarter, and it would therefore appear that, in spite of local difficulties, the Chinese are contriving to continue the supply of brick tea to Thibet. At the same time brick tea is dearer, and, should the difficulties increase, the tea produced in Szechuan and Yunnan may be sent down to the coast by sea to India and Thibet. The rise in the price of brick tea is another argument in favour of making an early endeavour to introduce Indian tea of suitable quality. I do not know whether any steps have been taken by the Indian Tea Cess Committee on Mr. J. Hutchison's Report on his Mission to Szechuan to examine the Chinese brick tea trade, but it might be possible to make a start by sending up a few maunds of pressed tea to Chumbi and Phari as an experiment, even though there might be a small financial loss. So far it has been difficult to persuade the Thibetans to buy Indian tea and prepare it for drinking in their own way, and as it is necessary to create a demand for Indian tea in the first place before any considerable sales can be expected I have one suggestion to offer. I have consulted a number of local people,



and they regard the idea as quite feasible. If some enterprising person were to open tea-shops at Phema (the weekly market town and junction of the Nathu and Jelap La roads), Chumbi, and Phari, where Indian tea is served with butter and flour in the Thibetan style was offered free to every passer-by, the popular prejudice against Indian tea might be broken down, and a taste for Indian tea created, locally, at first, and it would soon spread. Every large advertiser in England and America realizes the value of the free-sample system, and in this case it is important to offer the tea ready for drinking. The cost of the experiment would not be more than 100 rupees per month—three shop-keepers, three shops, a few fittings, and say six maunds of tea for the six months. Should the plan be successful and the consumption of free tea become unduly large, the shops could be closed sooner, as the taste would have been created and rival tea-shops opened. The opportunity for such an advertising experiment may soon pass, and if the Thibetan tea trade, worth anything between 20 and 30 lakhs, is to be gained for India, the small expenditure should not be an insuperable obstacle to those interested in the question. All efforts to introduce dry tea have failed so far, and this plan, though it may be regarded with some doubt by many, is one suggestion for overcoming the local prejudice and combating the opposition to the general substitution of Indian tea for the Chinese article.

4. *Exports.*—The exports appear on paper to have increased in value for each month of the quarter of 1906, as compared with 1905, but an erroneous impression is conveyed owing to the fact that wool, which is the staple article of export trade was undervalued by 5 rupees per maund last year (17 rupees for 22 rupees) by the Yatung Cutoms staff. By a small calculation the proper figures are shown in red in Appendix II. From which it appears that although the exports for April still show an increase, those for May and June have decreased. The total amount of wool exported in April 1906 was 5,501 maunds, and in April 1905, 3,597 maunds. In May 1906, there was a decrease of 1,288 maunds compared with May 1905, and in June 1906 there was a decrease of 598 maunds. No very great importance attaches to fluctuations in wool during the summer months as, once the heavy rains begin in Sikkim and about Kalimpong, the traders do not care to risk the chance of their wool getting wet, and the wool is held over till October when the returns go up correspondingly.

5. *Measures taken to foster trade.*—Early in May it was reported by one of the Headmen of Lower Tromo that a man, known as the Labrang Wangye, a native of Shigatse, was collecting a wool-tax of 3 annas per maund from all traders arriving at Phari from Shigatse. The Labrang Wangye was warned that if he collected any more money he would be expelled from the Chumbi Valley area. On further inquiry he was fined 50 rupees, being the approximate amount of his illegal collections. The result has been to relieve the Shigatse-Phari wool trade of a small burden. No other abuses or restrictions were brought to notice during the quarter, and the Headmen state that traders pass freely and without restriction or annoyance.

6. *Local Bazaar.*—A weekly bazaar was started at Phema on the 8th April; the first of its kind in the Chumbi Valley. Previously, any one wishing to buy rice from the Bhutanese had to pay a visit to a point near the Bhutan border, where the Bhutanese brought their rice for sale. Local produce was rarely sold, or perhaps only semi-privately, in each village. The new bazaar has changed all this, and is rapidly becoming a popular meeting place. The Bhutanese bring rice, cloth, eggs, and small wares. The local police produce their own goods for sale or exchange, and latterly enterprising Sikkimese have brought rice, butter, and other goods from Gangtok. There are now some twenty stalls every Sunday, and the new departure bids fair to become an established custom.

7. The second quarter of the year is not the most interesting from the point of view of trade. I hope to be able to prepare a more interesting report for the winter quarters.

(Signed) W. L. CAMPBELL,  
Assistant Political Officer at Chumbi.



## Appendix I.

TRADE passing over the Nathu La for the Quarter ending June 30, 1906.

							Rs. a. p.		
April 1906—									
Imports	..	..	..	..	..	..	320	2	0
Exports	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,810	0	0
May 1906—									
Imports	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,918	8	0
Exports	..	..	..	..	..	..	24,808	0	0
June 1906—									
Imports	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,164	12	0
Exports	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,270	0	0

N.B.—These figures include treasure.

## Appendix II.

TRADE passing through Yatung and over the Jelap La for the Quarter ending June 30, 1906, compared with the corresponding Quarter of 1905.

						1905.	1906.
						Rupees.	Rupees.
April—							
Imports	..	..	..	..	..	1,08,476	89,259
Treasure	..	..	..	..	..	4,950	15,000
Exports	..	..	..	..	..	80,687	1,41,013
Add	..	..	..	..	..	17,985	..
True figure	..	..	..	..	..	98,672	..
Treasure	..	..	..	..	..	19,200	14,500
May—							
Imports	..	..	..	..	..	2,06,472	1,04,322
Treasure	..	..	..	..	..	16,300	42,180
Exports	..	..	..	..	..	1,28,789	1,52,973
Add	..	..	..	..	..	35,550	..
True figure	..	..	..	..	..	1,64,339	..
Treasure	..	..	..	..	..	6,900	16,390
June—							
Imports	..	..	..	..	..	1,23,544	1,04,975
Treasure	..	..	..	..	..	16,000	31,000
Exports	..	..	..	..	..	63,991	77,884
Add	..	..	..	..	..	17,465	..
True figure	..	..	..	..	..	81,456	..
Treasure	..	..	..	..	..	18,000	15,564

Inclosure 5 in No. 27.

*Quarterly Trade Report by the British Trade Agent at Gyantse for the Quarter ending June 30, 1906.*

*Local Trade in Wool.*—It is extremely difficult to ascertain in Gyantse how the trade carried on by small local merchants is progressing, as no return or check is kept by the Thibetan authorities. Mahommedan traders from Lhasa, however, inform me that



the opening of the trade route through Phari is greatly appreciated by them, and a great many now go to Calcutta by that road, carrying down money and bringing back various goods of European manufacture, and coral, &c. They and Nepalese always prefer taking notes down from here when obtainable owing to their portability. The chief article exported is wool, but this does not change hands in Gyantse. The greater part is brought down from the grazing grounds to Shigatse, and there sold by the nomads to agents of Chumbi traders, who carry it straight through to Kalimpong.

This trade is chiefly carried on in winter.

*Tea.*—The Indian Tea Association, of 2, Clive Street, Calcutta, presented his Serenity the Tashi Lama with some Indian tea (not made up in bricks). I fear that no commercial results are to be expected from this, as the tea will probably be put into the godowns of Tashilunpo Monastery, along with the many other presents that his Serenity the Tashi Lama receives, and will not be accessible to the public, and it is even doubtful whether it will be drunk at all. The Consolidated Tea and Lands Company, Limited, of Calcutta, sent up twelve sample bricks of Indian tea. The bricks are an excellent imitation of the Chinese tea drunk in Thibet, and a great improvement on anything previously sent here. This tea has been placed for sale in the bazaar here, and has been sold for 12 tankas a brick. The local rate for the tea it most nearly resembles was 15 tankas, and has since dropped to 13, but I am of opinion that about 300 bricks could be sold for 12 tankas at the present time. The tea was most readily sold in small quantities to poor people. It was not openly sold as Indian tea. Before sending this tea to be sold in the bazaar, I gave it to several Thibetans without telling them that it was Indian tea. They noticed a slight difference in the taste, but did not dislike the tea for that reason.

I am writing to the firm about this, and explaining as well I can the difference.

*European Traders.*—Up to the present no European traders have visited the trade mart here, but there are expected shortly Messrs. Righi and Kirby from Darjeeling, and Mr. Maller (agent to Messrs. Smead and Lawton, of New York) from Amritsar.

The Ajmir Import and Export Company, Limited, have made inquiries regarding carpets, and have been sent a sample which they considered satisfactory, and correspondence is proceeding with them regarding the desirability of sending up an agent.

*Transport Rates.*—The following are the through rates (per maund) for transport between Phari and Gyantse (100 miles):—

				Rs.	a.	p.
From Phari to Gyantse—						
On ponies or mules, taking four days	..	..	..	..	3	0 0
On donkeys, taking seven days	..	..	..	..	1	0 0
From Gyantse to Phari—						
On ponies or mules, taking four days	..	..	..	..	5	10 0
On donkeys, taking seven days	..	..	..	..	1	8 0

There appear to be two reasons for this difference: Firstly, fodder for animals going to Phari from here has either to be carried or brought at an exorbitant price, as the peasants at Phari, Tuna, &c., only obtained sufficient for their own wants; secondly, animals coming to Gyantse from Phari are almost certain of obtaining a load of wool for the return journey to Phari.

I feel certain that if carts were used on the cart road to Phari that now exists, the transport of everything could be made much cheaper.

*Miscellaneous.*—The Nepalese Government have posted an Agent here, whose duty it is to look after the interests of, and settle disputes between, Nepalese traders.

Dâk bungalows have been built at intervals of about 15 miles on the road between Gyantse and Phari, but these are at present only partially furnished.

(Signed) F. M. BAILEY, Lieutenant,  
Officiating British Trade Agent.

Gyantse, July 18, 1906.



*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 21.)*

(No. 16.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, January 5, 1907.*

I CALLED on M. Isvolsky this afternoon, and told him that I had brought with me some modifications which His Majesty's Government desired to see made in Article II of the draft Thibetan Convention. I pointed out to his Excellency that the Article, as drafted by him, would seem to imply that the British Commercial Agents had the right to have relations with the Thibetan local authorities alone, while Article V of our Convention of 1904 with Thibet, the substance of which I read to him, clearly indicated that the Commercial Agents could, when necessary, address themselves to the Central Authorities, and provision was made for the safe transmission of their communications with Lhasa to and fro. The point could easily be settled by the omission of the word "locales"; and this, he would observe, had been done in our revised Article.

Again, my Government agreed to his suggestion that negotiations with the Thibetan Government should pass through the intermediary of the Chinese Government, but I would like to call his attention to a certain passage in Article I of the British Convention with China of 1906, which stated that the "High Contracting Parties engage to take at all times such steps as may be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms specified" in the Thibetan Convention of 1904. In order to avoid all future misunderstanding or ambiguity, my Government wished to specify this clause in our future Convention, and he would see that mention had, consequently, been made of it in the revised Article.

M. Isvolsky did not appear to take exception to these modifications, and observed that he presumed that I did not wish for an immediate reply.

I then continued that he would doubtless recollect that in the original Article II in the Memorandum, which I had communicated to him, reference had been made to the recognition by Russia of the special interest which Great Britain had, owing to her geographical position, in seeing that the external relations of Thibet were not disturbed by the intervention of any other Power. My Government, I said, attached importance to this recognition, as the only two countries which were limitrophe of Thibet were China and India, and in an instrument such as we hoped to sign it was of moment that the above fact should receive formal acknowledgment.

M. Isvolsky observed that he had one or two objections to the clause. In the first place, he believed that in no other international arrangement had a similar recognition of the relations or relative positions of one country with another not a party to the Convention been formulated. Again, the clause struck him as being dictated by some feelings of mistrust, and mistrust of Russia, as it was evident that no other Power but Russia was aimed at. Furthermore, he did not understand the word "disturb," and he would be perplexed how to translate it either in French or in Russian. He thought that the Conventions which Great Britain had concluded with Thibet and China sufficiently indicated her special position, and it appeared to him not only superfluous, but also in a sense "blessant," to emphasize it in the form which was suggested. In concluding any Treaty or Convention the Contracting Parties must believe in the *bona fides* of each other, or it would be of little avail to make any international arrangements. Besides, how could Russia, if she signed the Convention, "disturb" in any way the foreign relations of Thibet, when she engaged not to treat with that country except through the intermediary of China?

I said to his Excellency that I could, at any rate, cite one instance of a country recognizing the special interests of another in a third Power, and that was Great Britain when she acknowledged the special interests of France in Morocco. It was true that this acknowledgment had reference to the maintenance of good order, but still the principle was the same. As to the question of "mistrust," I hardly thought that such a term need be applied to a very simple and prudent precaution for the future, when both our Governments and he and I had all disappeared from the stage. In dealing with countries in the situation of Thibet it seemed to me that all possible care should be taken to avoid any possibility of any misunderstandings. Moreover, I must point out to him that Great Britain had been in Treaty relations with Thibet since 1890, had been compelled to send an expedition and to occupy the capital of the country, and had voluntarily abandoned many advantages which she might have permanently secured. After all that had passed, it could not be denied that Great Britain had a very special interest in a country lying on her Indian border, and in an instrument which would be published it was necessary to see the above



fact clearly exhibited. If there were a difficulty in finding an accurate French or Russian equivalent to the word "disturb," I might suggest "modify" or some other similar expression.

M. Isvolsky said that he perfectly admitted that Great Britain had acted generously and, doubtless, wisely, in withdrawing from Lhasa, but he could not, he confessed, see the necessity of inserting the clause; moreover, he did not like it following upon the very distinct declarations of the first paragraph, which clearly established the special Treaty relations and the special position of Great Britain, and to which the Russian Government would be ready to subscribe; at least, he would have a strong case in his hands in discussing the matter with others, but he must repeat that, as framed, the clause would offend many, and would displease public opinion when known.

M. Isvolsky, after thinking for a minute, said that perhaps the clause, in some modified form, might come as a preamble to the Convention if the word "disturb" could be eliminated.

I said that I did not think that my Government attached any particular importance to the order of the paragraphs, and, if he liked, I would endeavour to draw up a formula, which I would show him before the departure of my next bag in a fortnight's time, so that I could accompany it with his observations in submitting it to His Majesty's Government.

His Excellency said that he would be grateful if I would do so. Our conversation on this point lasted for a considerable time, but I think that I have reported the principal points.

I then read to M. Isvolsky the third paragraph of the revised Article II, concerning the relations of British and Russian Buddhists with the Lhasa authorities. M. Isvolsky shook his head, and observed that he again saw evidence of suspicion and mistrust in what he termed the "restrictive clauses." I told him that really I could not possibly agree with him. We were not asking Russia alone to refrain from doing certain acts, but both Governments engaged to do their best to prevent their Agents from certain proceedings, and they entered into mutual engagements not to utilize Buddhist pilgrims for certain purposes. It was a joint and common undertaking, and I could not conceive how any one could read into it any suspicion and mistrust.

M. Isvolsky said that he doubted if any international Convention contemplated what he would term "attempts to defraud its provisions." It would, he feared, be exceedingly difficult to find any terms which would afford an absolute security against individuals overstepping the limits laid down.

I replied that I thought that several Conventions could be cited which had, if I might so express myself, "precautionary clauses," especially Conventions which dealt with countries of an uncivilized character. Of course, documents did not give absolute security against the acts of individuals, but they formed a basis on which representations could, if necessary, be founded by one Government or the other, and I could assure him that it seemed to me these precautionary clauses were very needful in the interests of both countries.

M. Isvolsky said he would have preferred a simple statement of Great Britain's special interests flowing from her geographical position and her Treaty arrangements, and of Russia's special interests involved in the religious connections between so many of her subjects and the Lhasa authorities.

I observed that I could not recognize any "special" interests of Russia in that respect, as Great Britain had many Buddhist subjects also. I should rather say that Great Britain had special interests, political and other, and that she and Russia had common interests on the religious ground. The third paragraph fully acknowledged these latter interests, and I did not see that any exception could be taken to it.

We discussed this point for some time, and M. Isvolsky finally asked me to let him study the matter before giving a definitive reply.

Throughout our conversation, which lasted for over an hour, M. Isvolsky was frank and friendly, and assured me of his earnest desire to come to an understanding.

I suggested that I should prepare a formula as to paragraph 2, as it evidently is a stumbling-block, and M. Isvolsky was very positive that he could not accept it as it stood. I think it possible to devise one which I trust may meet your views and overcome the objections of M. Isvolsky.

At the end of our conversation M. Isvolsky raised unexpectedly a question which I reserve for another despatch.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.



[2243]

No. 29.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 21.)*

(No. 18.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, January 6, 1907.*

I ASKED M. Isvolsky yesterday whether he had, since our last conversation, been considering the suggestion which I had then made to him that no scientific missions should be permitted to go to Thibet for a specified period. His Excellency said that he still felt great difficulty in agreeing to an interdict being placed on such missions, and did not see how he should be able to justify it to the Russian Geographical Society.

I told him that I was sure that Russian scientific men would view the matter as sensibly as Englishmen; and when Mr. Morley had stated in the House of Commons that the interests of science must occasionally give way to political exigencies, no one had demurred to the statement.

M. Isvolsky asked what reason he could give for prohibiting the missions. I said that the state of the country and the unwillingness of the inhabitants to admit foreigners were good reasons. The country had not settled down since recent events, and it would be simple prudence to prevent travellers from wandering about.

He inquired what measures could be taken for preventing explorers of other nationalities from entering Thibet from the north. I said that I did not know if it would be possible, but perhaps the Chinese Government might be asked to forbid such journeys.

He then inquired as to what, according to our view, was Thibet. Were Kam and Tsaidam considered by us as within the Thibetan jurisdiction? I said that I certainly believed that we regarded Kam and Upper Tsaidam as within the Thibetan frontiers. He observed that it would be necessary to come to an understanding as to the frontiers of Thibet so as to know what was forbidden ground and what was not.

I remarked that I thought that he had been of opinion that we should take as Thibet the country recognized by China as such. He said that he believed that the Chinese Government themselves had no very clear and positive ideas on the subject.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[2244]

No. 30.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 21.)*

(No. 19.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, January 6, 1907.*

WHEN I was preparing to take leave of M. Isvolsky yesterday, he said that he would like to mention as a matter which might, perhaps, be considered when all our several Conventions were approaching completion. It was unnecessary for him to explain the very great importance which the situation in Mongolia had for Russia, and how any alteration of the *status quo* in those provinces would seriously affect Russian interests. Russia, he said, had no aggressive designs in regard to Mongolia; all that she desired was the maintenance of the *status quo*; and he wondered if it would be possible to mention in our Convention regarding Thibet the desire of the two Governments that no alterations should be introduced in the existing administrative system of Mongolia. The Chinese Government were seeking to replace the ancient feudal system by a centralized Chinese administration, and this was causing much discontent among all the inhabitants of Mongolia.

I told M. Isvolsky that his suggestion came to me as a surprise, and that, of course, I could not give a reply until I had consulted my Government. It seemed to me, however, that any allusion to Mongolian administration would be an interference in the strictly internal affairs of the Chinese Government, which they would doubtless resent.

M. Isvolsky remarked that he did not wish me to consult with my Government at present; he merely desired to mention the idea to me. He added that the Japanese had many emissaries in Mongolia, and were actively assisting the new policy of the Chinese Government. As Mongolia bordered on Thibet, he thought that the matter might have some interest to us.



I repeated that I had great doubts whether my Government would be inclined to take the course which he suggested; but as he did not desire to discuss the subject at present, I let the matter drop.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[2255]

No. 31.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 21.)*

(No. 31.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, January 15, 1907.*

DURING an interview which I had to-day with M. Isvolsky, his Excellency inquired of me if I had any formula to submit to him in regard to the point which we had recently discussed concerning the special interest of Great Britain in the foreign relations of Thibet, and which he had suggested might possibly be inserted in a preamble to the Convention.

I told M. Isvolsky that I had drawn up a formula, but that I had submitted it in the first place to you for your consideration, and that I had not yet ascertained your views with respect to it.

M. Isvolsky said that he had thrown his ideas on the subject into a written form, which he would communicate to me, not as a formal proposal, but for my guidance in discussing the matter with my Government.

He read to me a preamble, which he had drawn up, and I remarked that it seemed to me clearer than the one which I had submitted to my Government, and I would inquire of you whether it would meet your views.

M. Isvolsky then said that he observed that I had in the revised Article II entered into considerable detail with respect to the non-political character of any relations which Russian and British Buddhists might have with the Thibetan authorities. As he had pointed out on the previous occasion, these precautions indicated a certain mutual distrust, which he should be sorry to see embodied in a Convention. He had recast a portion of the Article, and while affording all the necessary safeguards against an abuse of the religious relations, he had, he thought, avoided giving any appearance of suspicion or mistrust. He considered that the words which he had employed covered the ground in a general sense, and as the other Articles of the Convention specified very clearly the character of the relations which might be entertained with the Thibetan Government, and the mode and channel in and through which they were to be conducted, it seemed to him that there could be no possibility of any misunderstanding arising. He wished me to understand that he was not making final and definite proposals, but merely throwing out certain drafting amendments for our consideration. I told him that I perfectly recognized the character of his suggestions, and I should be grateful if he would let me have his amendments for my guidance. I would return them to him the next day.

I beg leave to transmit a copy of the preamble and of the revised Articles I and II, as suggested by M. Isvolsky. Articles III, IV, and V of the Convention would remain unaltered.

The revised Article II removes the word "locales" after "autorités Thibétaines," and it leaves in the allusion to Article I of the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1906. These amendments are in accordance with our proposals.

On the other hand, it maintains "il est bien entendu" in place of "it is recognized that it may be necessary," and in general terms it prescribes a mutual engagement to prevent the relations of Russian and British Buddhists with the Thibetan authorities from violating the stipulations of the Convention.

M. Isvolsky considers that the engagements which both countries undertake in Articles I and II in regard to non-intervention in the internal administration of Thibet, and also as to treating with Thibet only through the intermediary of the Chinese Government, effectually prevent either country from utilizing the Buddhist pilgrims as political go-betweens or agents, and that any endeavour to do so would be distinctly contrary to the Convention. He, therefore, is of opinion that his wording would practically cover the same ground as the more detailed phraseology which I had submitted, and would be quite unobjectionable in form.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[1722]

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Inclosure in No. 31.

*Preamble and Articles I and II of Draft Tibetan Convention.—(Communicated informally by M. Isvolsky, January 2 (15), 1907.)*

LES Gouvernements de Russie et de la Grande-Bretagne, reconnaissant les droits suzerains de la Chine sur le Thibet et considérant que, par suite de sa situation géographique, la Grande-Bretagne a un intérêt spécial à voir le régime actuel des relations extérieures de Thibet intégralement maintenu, sont convenus de l'Accord suivant :—

ARTICLE I.

Les deux Hautes Parties Contractantes s'engagent à respecter l'intégrité territoriale du Thibet et à s'abstenir de toute ingérence dans son administration intérieure.

ARTICLE II.

Se conformant au principe admis de la suzeraineté de la Chine sur le Thibet, la Russie et la Grande-Bretagne s'engagent à ne traiter avec le Thibet que par l'entremise du Gouvernement Chinois. Cet engagement n'exclut pas, toutefois, les rapports des agents commerciaux Anglais avec les autorités Thibétaines prévus par l'Article V de la Convention du 7 Septembre, 1904, entre la Grande-Bretagne et le Thibet et confirmés par la Convention du 27 Avril, 1906, entre la Grande-Bretagne et la Chine; il ne modifie pas non plus les engagements assumés par la Grande-Bretagne et la Chine en vertu de l'Article I de la dite Convention de 1906.

Il est bien entendu que les Bouddhists, tant sujets Russes que Britanniques, peuvent entrer en relations directes sur le terrain strictement religieux avec le Dalai Lama et les autres représentants du Bouddhisme au Thibet. Les Gouvernements de Russie et de la Grande-Bretagne s'engagent, pour autant qu'il dépendra d'eux, à ne pas admettre que ces relations puissent porter atteinte aux stipulations du présent Accord.

[2259]

No. 32.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 21.)*

(No. 35.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, January 16, 1907.*

M. ISVOLSKY inquired of me to-day whether I had any communication to make to him in regard to the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley, as he had left with me on a former occasion a *pro-memoria* on the subject. I reminded his Excellency that I had informed him that my Government had no objection to repeating the Declaration, signed by the Viceroy of India, which had been annexed to the ratification of the Convention of 1904, but that they did not see the utility of a repetition of an engagement which had been explicitly given both in the ratification of the 1904 Convention and in the Adhesion Convention of 1906.

M. Isvolsky said that he personally did not require it, but that "others" would like to have it inserted. I observed that we wished to make no mystery about the matter, but that I did not think that a Declaration such as he desired could well be introduced into the body of the Convention, but it might be appended as an Annex. In my view all that related to transitional and provisional measures, such as prohibition of scientific missions, Chumbi occupation, &c., should not be embodied in an instrument which I trusted would be of a permanent character.

M. Isvolsky agreed with me, and inquired if he should draw up a formula, or whether I would be willing to do so. I said that it seemed to me that I should do so after consultation with my Government.

I beg leave to inclose a draft Annex on the subject, which if you approve I would communicate to M. Isvolsky. He said nothing as to reserving the right of the Russian Government to revise the terms of the Convention in the event of the British occupation being prolonged over the date of three years.



I remarked to M. Isvolsky that I trusted we should now make some progress with all our three Conventions, as the "atmosphere" in both countries was at present exceedingly favourable, and it was desirable not to delay matters unduly in regard to Persia. His Excellency cordially concurred, and said that as Count Benckendorff was now in St. Petersburg he might also be of assistance in the negotiations. I quite agreed with him on this point.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 32.

*Annex to the Convention between Great Britain and Russia regarding Thibet.*

GREAT BRITAIN reaffirms the Declaration, signed by his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, and appended to the ratified Convention of the 7th September, 1904, to the effect that the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley shall cease after the due payment of the three annual instalments of the indemnity of 25,00,000 rupees, and provided that the trade marts, as stipulated in Article II of the Convention, shall be effectively opened for three years, and that in the meantime the Thibetans shall have faithfully complied with the terms of the said Convention of 1904 in all other respects.

[2521]

No. 33.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 21.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 19th instant, relative to the proceedings of Mr. Chang in Thibet.

*India Office, January 21, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 33.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*January 19, 1907.*

THIBET. See your telegram dated the 2nd January, 1907. Trade Agent, Gyantse, telegraphed as follows on the 11th January :—

"I have been informed officially by Jongpens that, according to orders left here by Chang, Gow is to be the medium through which all dealings between British and Thibetans are to be conducted. They are compelled, therefore, even in the most trivial cases, to consult Gow and receive his instructions before they can comply with any request of mine, and they accordingly regret that they will not be able to continue, as hitherto, to settle all local matters direct with me."

[2504]

No. 34.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 21.)*

(No. 17.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Peking, January 21, 1907.*

THIBET.

The views of the Government of India on the subject of your telegram No. 9 of the 18th instant were mentioned to-day to his Excellency Tong Shoa-yi in the course of private conversation. He promised to ascertain and communicate to me the opinion of the Board concerned respecting the northern and eastern boundaries of Thibet, of which he himself was ignorant.



[2656]

No. 35.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 23.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 27th December, 1906, relative to the question as to whether the Tashi Lama receives visits from Russian Buddhists.

*India Office, January 22, 1907.*


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Inclosure 1 in No. 35.

*Government of India to Mr. White.**Simla, August 17, 1906.*

IN the course of a recent conversation between the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs and His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg, the former is reported to have observed that Russian Buddhists may find it necessary to be in relations with the Tashi Lama.

2. I am therefore to inquire whether the Tashi Lama has ever been known to receive visits from Russian Buddhists.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 35.

*Mr. Bell to Government of India.*

(Very Confidential.)

Sir,

*Camp Shigatse, November 6, 1906.*

WITH reference to your letter dated the 17th August, 1906, concerning the question as to whether the Tashi Lama ever receives visits from Russian Buddhists, I have the honour to state that information received here shows (what I always understood to be the case) that though it is not possible to say with certainty whether the Buriats, living to the north of Mongolia, do occasionally visit the Tashi Lama or not, it is probable that a few of them do so surreptitiously. The Thibetans class both Buriats and Mongolians as Sok-po, and Mongolia, being such a great distance from Lhasa and Shigatse, are unable to tell the difference between them. There are at present about 300 Sok-po monks in the Tasha Chimpö Monastery out of a total number of about 3,500, but none of the Thibetans, including the Tashi Lama himself, know whether any of these come from within Russian territory or not. If any do come from within Russian territory, they do not do so openly, but keep this fact to themselves, a circumstance which appears to show that hitherto Russian Buddhists have not been able to assert any right to visit the Tashi Lama or reside in Tashi Chimpö Monastery. The position as regards those who visit the Tashi Lama is similar. Some Sok-po do come, but none of those who come state openly that they are Russian subjects.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) C. A. BELL,  
*Officiating Political Officer in Sikkim.*

[2822]

No. 36.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 25.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures



in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 27th December, relative to Mr. Chang's Mission to Thibet.

*India Office, January 24, 1907.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

*Mr. Bell to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Chumbi (Gangtok), November 19 (24), 1906.*

WITH reference to Mr. Holand's letter, dated the 11th October, 1906, I have the honour to submit herewith, in original, Lieutenant Campbell's Report on the points brought to notice by Mr. Chang.

2. I have nothing to add to the remarks contained in my telegrams dated the 30th September, 1906, the 1st October, 1906, the 4th October, 1906, and my Memorandum dated the 9th October, 1906.

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

*Report on a Letter dated Bibi Tong, September 30, 1906, from Chang Yin-tang to Government of India.*

NOTE.—The points brought to notice by Mr. Chang are quoted in brackets in the order in which they occur in his letter.

[ON the 24th instant I moved down to the yamên of the Chinese official who is stationed at Bibi Tong, and very shortly after my arrival there Mr. Campbell was announced as a visitor.]

1. Please refer to paragraph 6 of my earlier Report, dated the 8th October, 1906. I have carefully questioned the peon about the message which he brought back to me from the yamên to the outskirts of Pipitang. He states that he entered the yamên as usual, he being the messenger who always goes on ahead to present my card when I call on the Chinese officials. When he reached the steps outside the room where visitors are received (described as the drawing-room in Mr. Chang's letter), he found that the purdah was lowered over the door. Two Chinese were standing outside, one a steward or major-domo in the Popon's household. This man, who speaks Thibetan, asked the peon his business. The latter presented my Chinese card and said that I wished to pay my respects to Mr. Chang, making use of a polite Thibetan phrase. The steward gave the card to the other Chinese, and said something to him in Chinese. This man then went inside and, returning, said something in Chinese to the steward, who said to the peon, "Peb shu," which may be translated, "Please ask (him) to come," thus signifying that Mr. Chang was ready to receive me. The peon therefore left the yamên and came back to meet me. From this it appears that Mr. Chang had himself some five minutes' notice of my intended call, and was quite ready to receive me. If Mr. Chang regarded my visit as too sudden, he might have told my messenger that he was unable to receive me, and I would not have entered the village of Pipitang, but turned back when the peon came out to meet me.

[Before my having sent word for him to be admitted Mr. Campbell demanded that the centre doors of the gateway leading into the drawing-room should be thrown open for him to enter by.]

2. As explained above in paragraph 1, I did not so much as enter the village until I had received Mr. Chang's invitation, as I wished to avoid any chance of being kept waiting while the usual preparations were being made. I did not demand that the centre doors should be opened. I can only suppose that Mr. Chang was misinformed by some of his followers who saw me waiting outside the door.

[1722]

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[I was also aware that Mr. Bell, Mr. Campbell's superior officer, was expected to arrive at Chumbi on the next day. The throwing open of the centre gateway of a yamên to a visitor is in China the highest honour that can be shown to a guest of the highest rank; and I was reserving this honour for Mr. Bell in order to receive him with greater formality than that with which I received his Assistant Political Officer.]

3. I do not know how Mr. Chang was aware that Mr. Bell was expected on the following day (the 25th September). Mr. Henderson was not aware that Mr. Bell was on his way from Gangtok until I told him at Yatung on the 25th September, the day on which Mr. Chang expected Mr. Bell to arrive.

4. I have read Mr. Chang's description of the importance attaching to the opening of the centre door in China with some surprise, and I may permit myself to quote my personal experience after nearly two years' residence in China, during which time I had opportunities of meeting Chinese of the highest rank. I have entered very many yamêns in Peking, and in the course of a journey across the Chinese Empire, and I may say that, as far as I remember, I have never entered a Chinese yamên by the side door, excepting, I think, the Wai-wu Pu of Foreign Office, which ranks above all other yamêns since 1900. This, of course, does not apply to the "chi chen," or anniversaries of the deaths of Emperors and Empresses, when the centre door is not opened for the official himself. The day on which I called on Mr. Chang was not one of these days. The following day was, and Mr. Henderson told me that the Chinese had excused themselves from opening the door to him on that day, and asked me if it was correct. I consulted the Chinese calendar, and reassured him. As far as I know, the centre door is opened for practically all Europeans by most Chinese officials nowadays. I think I am correct in saying that many officials pay the compliment to missionaries, who do not, as a rule, receive much consideration from the Chinese. On the whole, Mr. Chang's description of the door ceremony seems to be applicable to Chinese only or to the treatment of Europeans in the days before the Boxer outbreak. I cannot believe that there are many Europeans who would enter a yamên by the side door nowadays. Personally, I should always feel that the official who wished me to do so wished to show me discourtesy.

5. With regard to Mr. Chang's intentions in the matter of the door, Mr. Henderson assured me on the 26th September that Mr. Chang would "perhaps" open the door to the Political Officer in Sikkim. The "perhaps" was afterwards dropped, but before he left Phari, Mr. Henderson told me that when Mr. Bell wished to have an informal interview with Mr. Chang in the yamên, after Mr. Bell and Mr. Chang had met in a Thibetan house and at the staging bungalow, it was only by exerting his influence that Mr. Henderson persuaded Mr. Chang to open the centre door to Mr. Bell. The point is interesting in view of Mr. Chang's written statement and his official assurances to Mr. Bell, conveyed by Mr. Henderson, to the effect that he was always prepared to open the door to Mr. Bell (*vide* last sentence of telegram No. 5, dated the 28th September, 1906, from the Political Officer in Sikkim to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, and paragraph 6 of telegram No. 6, dated the 28th September, 1906, from the Political Officer in Sikkim to the Secretary of the Government of India in the Foreign Department).

[Mr. Campbell, as I have stated, demanded as a right the highest honours with which a guest can be received, and made a scene outside the yamên and behaved altogether in a strange and unseemly manner.]

6. I did not demand anything from Mr. Chang, either as a right or otherwise, nor did I make a scene outside the yamên at Pipitang. I have described what occurred in some detail in paragraph 6 of my earlier Report dated the 8th October, 1906, and I can only suppose that some distorted tale was carried to Mr. Chang by his servants who saw me outside the yamên. I am surprised to learn that Mr. Chang should think me capable of so far losing my own self-respect as to behave in a strange and unseemly manner outside his yamên.

[I may mention that Mr. Campbell omitted the customary courtesy of announcing his intention to pay me a visit and asking if I could receive him, which is invariably done in official intercourse with Chinese officials.]

7. I have paid many official calls in China, and my usual custom has been to send a servant on a few minutes ahead with my card to intimate that I wished to pay a call and



to inquire whether it was convenient for the official to receive me. This I did in Mr. Chang's case, and from the message which was given to my peon Mr. Chang would appear to have been perfectly satisfied with my procedure in the first instance (*vide* paragraph 1 of this letter). Further, I hoped that Mr. Chang would appreciate that I had gone out of my way to call on him immediately after his arrival at Pipitang as a compliment, and in order to see that he had all that he required. I do not understand why he should accuse me of omitting to give him notice of my intended call when I had taken every precaution to prevent my visit coming as a surprise.

[As my servants reported that Mr. Campbell was behaving in this manner, I sent out word to him that I was at present engaged and could not see him. Mr. Campbell attempted once more and then departed in a temper, and immediately sent for all the Headmen of the Tons (*sic*) villages; and, under penalties, prohibited them from selling me or my Mission any supplies.]

8. Mr. Chang now admits that his action was based on the reports carried to him by his servants. The message which was finally delivered to me as coming from Mr. Chang was to the effect that he was "tang chia," or "not at home," also not very well and lying down. Nothing was said about Mr. Chang being engaged. I left as soon as the message was delivered, and neither then nor yet before or after did I attempt to force my way into Mr. Chang's presence. I did not send for the Tromo Headmen, and still less did I prohibit them from selling to Mr. Chang or his Mission under penalties or otherwise. What occurred on the evening of the 24th September has already been reported in paragraph 7 of my earlier Report dated the 8th October, 1906.

[There was nothing discourteous or disrespectful to either Mr. Campbell or his rank in the reception which was offered to him by me, and I consider that his subsequent conduct was due to loss of temper and to his inexperience of international courtesy and diplomatic usage.]

9. The statement made in this paragraph is somewhat contradictory in view of what has gone before. So far Mr. Chang has said that as I arrived unannounced at the gate of his yamên and behaved in a strange and unseemly manner he declined to see me. Now he talks of having offered me a reception (the nature of which he does not describe), and thus he now practically admits that he had invited me to enter in some way and was therefore aware of my visit. With regard to the reception which actually was offered to me, I can only repeat once more that I did not consider that I would be justified in entering the yamên in my official capacity and in uniform by an entrance and in a manner which I should have considered unsuitable even had I presented myself at the door in a private capacity as an acquaintance who desired to pay Mr. Chang a private call.

[On the 25th my yamên was surrounded by thirty soldiers, who prevented all supplies being brought to me for sale; five of my yamên runners were arrested for picking up wood, which was not allowed to be brought to me; all these men were beaten, and one was seriously injured. My horses and ponies in the meantime were entirely without fodder.]

10. The guard which was placed at Phema on the request of the village Headman was never increased or decreased. There were six sepoy under a havildar. Furthermore, they were stationed at Phema, a quarter of a mile from the yamên and round the corner of a hill, where they could not so much as see Pipitang. The thirty soldiers who are supposed to have surrounded Mr. Chang's yamên existed only in the imagination of his followers. The number has decreased since Mr. Henderson was instructed to say that forty soldiers were present (*vide* telegram dated the 28th September, 1906, from the Political Officer in Sikkim to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, paragraph 8, the sentence beginning "Thirdly"). It is curious that Mr. Chang should adhere to the statement that his yamên was surrounded by soldiers, and only corroborates the belief that, throughout, he was deceived by his own underlings. With regard to the alleged beating of five yamên runners, the five men who were temporarily detained are believed to have been Tibetan soldiers (*vide* paragraph 10 of my earlier Report dated the 8th October, 1906). In any case these men were only temporarily detained, and were not beaten or otherwise maltreated. If the wood which they were carrying did not reach Mr. Chang it must



have been the fault of his own people. Mr. Chang complains that his horses and ponies were entirely without fodder. He remained in the Chumbi Valley for five weeks, and never asked for any supplies to be sent to Pipitang. The Thibetan Depon told me that the Chinese and Thibetan soldiers cut grass for the animals. Mr. Chang probably purchased grain in the open market. I know that he afterwards pressed the Headmen to take his orders direct, and I have been assured that the Headmen of the Upper Valley did furnish him with supplies.

[On the 26th I desired Mr. Henderson to go to see Mr. Campbell and obtain from him the reason for his extraordinary behaviour.]

11. When Mr. Henderson came to see me on the 26th September, he never so much as hinted that he had been desired "to obtain from me the reason for my extraordinary behaviour." He came, he said, because the Chinese had complained that supplies had been cut off because I had not been admitted to the yamên (*vide* paragraph 9 of my earlier Report dated the 8th October, 1906). Mr. Henderson never attempted to demand any explanation of anything from me. Our whole interview was most cordial.

[Mr. Campbell said he had ordered the Headmen not to supply me with anything, as the order in the Chumbi Valley was that Chinese officials should indent on him for all they require. If this is the case, do you not think that Mr. Campbell should have explained it to me or to Mr. Henderson, who was also ignorant of this innovation; and that, if he was irritated at not being received with honours which I was reserving for his superior officer, it would have been more dignified on his part to have discussed the matter with me by writing, instead of retaliating by subjecting me to petty affronts and annoyances? While Mr. Campbell was assuring Mr. Henderson that he was doing his best to make my stay here pleasant, and that he would furnish all supplies necessary, another of my followers was arrested by his soldiers and was not released till Mr. Henderson returned. I was therefore forced to telegraph to you the state of affairs that was existing.]

12. I am afraid that the account of Mr. Henderson's call has been mangled in translation to Mr. Chang. I never told Mr. Henderson that I had ordered the Headmen not to supply Mr. Chang with anything, and I must deny this statement. As for Mr. Henderson's alleged ignorance of what Mr. Chang calls an innovation, Mr. Henderson had been in the Chumbi Valley before and was well aware of the local arrangements, and had further obtained transport animals according to the rules. It was unlikely that Mr. Chang would personally give orders to the Headmen, and his subordinates, the Chinese Popon and the Thibetan Depon, were well aware that they were not allowed to exercise any jurisdiction in the Chumbi Valley or give orders to the Headmen direct. Further, as Mr. Chang refused to receive me, I had no opportunity of talking to him. It is something to learn that Mr. Chang had himself been told that I was doing my best to make his stay in Chumbi pleasant and that I would furnish all supplies necessary. The follower whose arrest is described as occurring while I was talking to Mr. Henderson is apparently the "Yung" whose doings are described in paragraph 10 of my earlier Report dated the 8th October, 1906. As regards his release, the havildar who was in charge of the guard states that he was ordered by Mr. Henderson to release the man. I reported Mr. Henderson's assumption of authority to Mr. Bell verbally, and he decided not to press the case against the "Yung" in view of the peculiar nature of the relations with Mr. Chang at the time. Mr. Chang's letter would seem to suggest that the man was released on my order conveyed through Mr. Henderson on his return to Phema, but the man's release was due to the havildar's ignorance of Mr. Henderson's position. Mr. Henderson is known as the Commissioner, and this name appears to have impressed the havildar.

[The Chinese soldiers who were sent by his Excellency the Chinese Resident in Lhasa to meet me were turned out of the quarters they had taken up at Rinchengong and put to much inconvenience. They were prepared to pay for their accommodation and everything they received. The only reason alleged by Mr. Campbell to Mr. Bell in the presence of Mr. Henderson for their expulsion was "they had no cooking-pots with them." At the interview which Mr. Henderson had with Mr. Bell on the 27th, Mr. Campbell stated he had not been asked by you to arrange for my supplies.]



[In your kind telegram in reply to mine he is reported to have stated that he came to visit me "in accordance with orders to furnish you with all reasonable facilities." Mr. Campbell has behaved to me with a high-handedness and disrespect which I feel sure you will deplore.]

13. The Chinese soldiers who were sent from Lhasa to meet Mr. Chang were living in Rinchengong when I returned to Chumbi from Simla. The facts are given in my Frontier Confidential Report, dated the 7th August, paragraphs 3 and 4. A copy of Confidential letter, dated Gangtok, the 13th August, 1906, from the Political Officer in Sikkim to my address is attached to this Report. The Chinese soldiers were asked to leave Rinchengong, and moved to Pipitang, as reported in my Frontier Confidential Report, dated the 22nd August, 1906, paragraph 1. The late Popon, Mr. Sung, admitted to me that there was plenty of room for the Chinese soldiers in the Chinese villages, and there is therefore no reason to believe that they were put to any inconvenience. The people who suffered most were the unfortunate inhabitants of Rinchengong, who number ninety-one, and who had been forced to find accommodation for some seventy Thibetans and Chinese. If I mentioned the want of cooking-pots before Mr. Henderson it was because it appeared to me to be a strong indication of the intention of the Chinese soldiers to demand both food and lodging from the people of the Chumbi Valley. The soldiers gave a few "tengas" to the people of Rinchengong, but the balance of the rent due for the time they spent at Rinchengong was paid to me by the new Popon when I asked for it. The soldiers do not appear to have made much attempt to pay for their lodging direct. Mr. Chang states that I stated that I had not been directed to arrange for his supplies. I think he means to say that I stated that I had received no intimation that he required any definite quantity of anything such as grass or wood. This was the case. Mr. Henderson asked for transport to be supplied, and this was done. I telegraphed to him to ask where Mr. Chang would live while in Chumbi (*vide* paragraph 2 of my earlier Report dated the 8th October, 1906). If Mr. Henderson had replied and had asked for wood, grass, or other supplies to be prepared, this would naturally have been done at once. None of the Chinese suggested that any assistance of this kind was required. Mr. Chang admits in an earlier sentence that I had told Mr. Henderson that I would furnish all supplies necessary.

14. In conclusion, I may mention that the present and the late Popon have both assured me of their surprise at Mr. Chang's attitude. The present Popon declared that he "could not reconcile himself to such behaviour." The late Popon remarked that Mr. Chang's staff made too much of him, and led him to take an exaggerated view of his own importance. Both officials added that they had done their best to smooth him down. Nothing was farther from my intention than to behave to Mr. Chang with high-handedness or disrespect.

(Signed) W. A. CAMPBELL,  
*Assistant Political Officer at Chumbi.*

*Chumbi, November , 1906.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 36.

*Mr. Bell to Mr. Campbell.*

(Confidential.)

*Gangtok, August 13, 1906.*

WITH reference to paragraph 4 of your Frontier Confidential Report, dated the 7th August, 1906, I have the honour to inquire if it is not possible now to arrange for the housing of the Chinese soldiers in one of the Chinese villages at Yatung, Pipitang, or Chuten Karpo.

Inclosure 4 in No. 36.

*Mr. Bell to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Camp Chumbi, November 21, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to report the following bazaar rumours at present in Gyantse concerning Mr. Chang's Mission. Though they are only bazaar rumours, they indicate the readiness of the Chinese to spread such rumours and the readiness of the Thibetans to listen to them :—

(a.) Mr. Chang is going to eject the Europeans and the Indian troops from Gyantse. Only Indian traders will be allowed to go to Gyantse.

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(b.) Lieutenant Campbell did not get on well with Mr. Chang in the Chumbi Valley, and therefore the latter has represented matters to both the Indian and Chinese Governments, and is going to have Lieutenant Campbell dismissed.

(c.) If the Indian Government does not heed what Mr. Chang says, Chinese troops will be sent to expel us by force from Thibet. Chinese troops were not sent to oppose us during the time of the Thibet Mission, because there was not time to send them.

2. Mr. Chang has told Mr. Henderson not to go to Shigatse, because he (Mr. Chang) intends to object to British officials and other Europeans travelling in Thibet except between the trade marts and India. Mr. Henderson has, however, informed me two or three times that he will go later on. Both the Tashi Lama and the latter's Chief Minister (Gyapying Chempo) were expecting him at Shigatse, and his decision not to go there was taken only a few days before his intended departure.

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Inclosure 5 in No. 36.

*Government of India to Mr. Bell.*

Sir,

*Fort William, December 27, 1906.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 19th (24th) November, 1906, forwarding Lieutenant Campbell's Report on the complaints made by Mr. Chang with regard to the inconveniences suffered by him during the early period of his stay in the Chumbi Valley.

2. In reply, I am to say that, after careful consideration of the matter, the Government of India are unable to see any grounds for supposing that Lieutenant Campbell behaved with high-handedness or disrespect in his dealings with Mr. Chang. I am to request that Lieutenant Campbell may be informed accordingly. No communication on the subject need, however, be made to Mr. Chang or any other Chinese official.

3. A copy of the communication,\* which has already been made by the Government of India to Mr. Chang in reply to his letter of the 30th September, 1906, is inclosed for your information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. H. S. CLARKE,  
*Deputy Secretary.*

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Inclosure 6 in No. 36.

*Government of India to Sir J. Jordan.*

Sir,

*Fort William, December 27, 1906.*

WITH reference to your telegram, dated the 30th September, 1906, and to his Excellency the Viceroy's telegram, dated the 1st October, 1906, to the Secretary of State, which was repeated to you, I am directed to forward, for your information, a copy of the marginally-noted papers,† regarding the complaints made by Mr. Chang, on the subject of the inconveniences suffered by him during the early period of his recent stay in the Chumbi Valley.

The Government of India do not propose to send any further reply to Mr. Chang's letter to Sir L. Dane, dated the 30th September, 1906.

I have, &c.

(For Secretary to Government of India),  
(Signed) E. H. S. CLARKE.

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\* Dated October 8, 1906.

† Letter from Chang Yin-tang, dated September 30; letter to ditto, dated October 8; Memorandum from Mr. Bell, dated October 9, 1906; and Inclosures 1, 4, and 5.



[2843]

No. 37.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 25.)*

Sir,

*India Office, January 24, 1907.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge receipt of Sir F. Campbell's letter of the 17th instant forwarding a copy of a telegram from Sir J. Jordan giving the purport of Mr. Chang's answer to the complaints of the Governor of India.

In reply I am to inclose, for Sir E. Grey's information, a copy of papers received by last mail, which contain reports of conversations between Mr. Chang and Mr. Bell at Gyantse; and also copies of correspondence relative to the proceedings of Mr. Gow at Gyantse after Mr. Chang's departure.

It appears from a perusal of these papers that the main points dealt with by Mr. Bell in his conversations with Mr. Chang were complaints made by Mr. Chang of oppression of the Thibetans by the British Trade Agent's servants, and of the extortion of money and supplies in the name of the British Trade Agent. In both cases Mr. Bell expressed his intention to punish any such cases that came to his knowledge, and invited the co-operation of the Chinese officials with this object. Nothing appears to have been said at this time about the method of purchasing supplies for the *bond fide* use of the Trade Agent.

On the 21st November Mr. Gow, who is styled the Chinese Trade and Diplomatic Agent, asked Lieutenant Bailey, the Acting British Trade Agent, to get all supplies in future through him; and was informed that no change could be made without reference to superior authority. To this Mr. Gow agreed; but he subsequently raised the question of the sufficiency of the rates paid by the British Agency, and threatened to stop supplies unless paid for at the rates fixed by himself, though the British Agent had not accepted them as correct, and had expressed his willingness to adjust the prices paid after the market rate had been definitely settled. It does not appear that any agreement was ever arrived at either between Mr. Bell and Mr. Chang, or between Lieutenant Bailey and Mr. Gow, that all questions relating to supplies should be settled with the Chinese Agent as they arose; or that the price of supplies notified by the Chinese Agent should be accepted as final. It will be seen that Mr. Bell has ordered an inquiry into the rate question.

I am to add that the complaint of the Government of India is evidently based upon Mr. Gow's letter to Lieutenant Bailey of the 4th December, 1906, which is the last paper in the inclosed printed file.

A copy of a further telegram received from the Viceroy, dated the 19th instant, is inclosed,\* showing the position of affairs on the 11th January.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

*Diary of Lieutenant Bailey, Officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for the week ending December 1, 1906.*

(Extract.)

November 27, Gyantse.—The wildest rumours are going about regarding the results of Mr. Chang's visit here. The son of the Rajah of Sikkim wrote to me that the Jongpen is reported to have said that the whole British Agency and escort was to be removed from Gyantse, and asked me if this was true. I immediately contradicted this.

Another rumour is to the effect that Lieutenant Campbell has been dismissed by Mr. Chang, and the Government of the Chumbi Valley is to be immediately taken over by the Lhasa authorities.

November 28.—Mr. Gow has given orders to all the people in Gyantse to hang red cloths outside their doors on the occasion of the birthday of the Dowager Empress of China. Any one who did not comply was to be punished.



November 30.—Mr. Gow wishes me to deal with the Thibetans through him, but I have refused to do so until I have received orders. To-day the two Jongpens came to see me alone, but they had evidently first asked Mr. Gow's permission to come. Mr. Gow and Mr. Sung\* dined with me this evening.

December 1.—Since Mr. Chang's arrival the peasants of the neighbourhood have refused to be vaccinated. Owing to the rumour that we are to evacuate Gyantse, all Thibetans are afraid to have any dealings whatever with us.

Mr. Gow has told me that Mr. Chang has sent proposals in to the Chinese Government regarding the Government of Thibet. These include the posting of 10,000 Chinese troops in Thibet, and also the abolition of all the Chinese Popons in Thibet. Mr. Gow tells me that the Chinese Foreign Office notified his appointment here to the British Ambassador about the 20th November.

Gyantse, December 3, 1906.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

*Mr. Bell to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

(Extract.)

Gangtok, December 13, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to report that an agent whom I sent to Lhasa has returned with the following information. My informant had interviews with the Ti Rimpoche and the Shaps.

6. *Chinese endeavours to keep British and Thibetans apart.*—The Ti Rimpoche and the Shaps told my informant that the Chinese were in constant fear lest the British and Thibetans should become good friends, which might result in the Thibetans getting rid of the Chinese authority, since in that case they would have no further need to rely on it.

(The fact that China subsidizes the Thibetan regular troops and the three leading monasteries—Sera, Drepung, and Ganden (*vide* my "Report on the Government of Thibet," chapter VI, paragraph 14, and chapter VII, paragraphs 9–12 inclusive), no doubt helps to uphold the authority of China with the Central Government at Lhasa. When recently at Tashilhunpo I found that the Tashi Lama was desirous of transferring his allegiance from China to the British Government.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 37.

*Diary of Lieutenant Bailey, Officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for the week ending December 8, 1906.*

(Extract.)

December 3.—I had lunch with Mr. Gow to-day. The two Jongpens came over to see me about supplies. This evening I received a letter from Mr. Gow saying that I had broken the Treaty by asking the Jongpens to supply transport on payment for two vaccinators whom Lieutenant Stewart was sending to Kala to vaccinate owing to the outbreak of small-pox in Chumbi.

December 4, Kangmar.—Before leaving I sent Mr. Gow a reply to his letter. An extremely strongly-worded reply was received from Mr. Gow and telephoned to me here this evening. Mr. Gow wrote that he would order the Jongpens not to send in some supplies, regarding which I have the Jongpens' written assurance that they will be sent.

December 7, Tuna.—I have heard on the telephone that Mr. Gow is more reasonable, and in spite of the threat contained in his letter supplies are coming in to Gyantse.

\* Chinese ex-Popon of Chumbi.



## Inclosure 4 in No. 37.

*Lieutenant Bailey to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Gyantse, December 4, 1906.*

GOW has written telling me that unless I pay for supplies at a rate fixed by him he will order the Jongpens to stop all supplies coming in to me. I have told the Jongpens that I will pay for supplies on receipt at the rate previously paid, and that Captain O'Connor on his arrival will, if necessary, fix a new rate which will be retrospective.

Addressed Political, Sikkim; repeated Foreign.

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## Inclosure 5 in No. 37.

*Lieutenant Bailey to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Gyantse, December 5, 1906.*

YOUR telegram dated 5th.

Gow told me privately that his title is "Chinese Commissioner in charge of the Chinese Trade and Diplomatic Agency;" his appointment is Sub-Prefect. He received his appointment from Chang, who is a Plenipotentiary. Chang wired to Wai-wu Pu about 20th November to inform British Minister at Peking of Gow's appointment.

Our getting supplies through Gow will not, in my opinion, prevent friction.

Telephoned from Samoda.

Addressed Political, Sikkim; repeated Foreign.

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## Inclosure 6 in No. 37.

*Lieutenant Bailey to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Gyantse, December 5, 1906.*

YOUR telegram dated Chumbi, 22nd November, and letter dated 5th December.

Only alternative possible if Gow orders Jongpens to stop supplies and they obey him are: First, to take by force and pay Thibetans above usual rates. Second, to pay Gow's rate under protest, with the understanding that if eventually found too high amount will be readjusted. I recommend former course unless it is probable that all our dealings will in future be through Gow. Clause V of Lhasa Convention admits right of British Trade Agent to deal direct with Thibetan authorities through Thibetan Agent. Have no official information of Gow's position, and do not know who is his immediate superior. Please also refer to my telegram of to-day's date. I wrote to Gow on 4th December saying that until I am officially notified of his position I cannot recognize him as an intermediary between me and the Thibetan officials, and also that for same reason I could not discuss whether I had broken the Treaty or not. I hope this meets with your approval. Gow's letter, referred to in my telegram dated 4th December, was very strongly worded. He accuses me of breaking the Treaty by compulsory vaccination. He says he cannot recognize me until he has been officially notified by the Chinese Government of my position. He refers to the British Trade Agency in such terms as "high-handedness," "robbers." He accuses me of breaking my promise in regard to payment of supplies, and says he will order Jongpens to stop all supplies from coming in. Vaccination is not compulsory. Have a written promise from the Jongpens that they will send in supplies. I have not replied to Mr. Gow's letter.

Telephoned from Samoda.

Addressed Political, Sikkim; repeated Foreign.

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## Inclosure 7 in No. 37.

*Lieutenant Bailey to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Pharijong, December 6, 1906.*

MY telegram dated 5th December.

Supplies are coming into Gyantse, and Gow has again agreed to allow old arrangements to continue until orders are received. He asks me as a personal favour to stop vaccinating altogether until orders are received, and I have agreed to stop this for the present.

Telephoned from Tuna.

Addressed Political, Sikkim; repeated Foreign.

## Inclosure 8 in No. 37.

*Mr. Bell to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Gangtok, December 6, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith for the information of the Government of India a letter (in original) received from the British Trade Agent at Gyantse regarding the alleged extortion of supplies from peasants by employes of the Gyantse Trade Agency.

2. I have informed Lieutenant Bailey that I approve of the action taken by him.

## Inclosure 9 in No. 37.

*Lieutenant Bailey to Mr. Bell.*

(Confidential.)

*Gyantse, November 24, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a letter received from Mr. Gow and also a copy of a letter sent by me to him.

2. Mr. Gow came over to see me on the 21st instant. He informed me of three specific instances in which men in our employ had exacted supplies from peasants giving insufficient payment or (in one case) none at all. I told him that I would make inquiries into these cases as soon as possible. He also told me that to prevent trouble in the bazaar he proposed to station Chinese police there.

I have arranged to have a non-commissioned officer of the escort sent to the bazaar every day on police duty and have had every one here informed that this man is to be implicitly obeyed.

3. Mr. Gow again came to see me on the 23rd. We investigated the cases above referred to, but I was dissatisfied with the evidence given by the Tibetans and I understand that the witnesses were all taken before the Jongpen and told what to say.

4. Complaints are coming in from the Jongpens to Mr. Gow that we are extorting supplies on insufficient payment. One respectable man has told Shabdung Lama that the Jongpens have ordered the peasants to bring them petitions against us. This man will not repeat this before the Jongpens for fear of punishment. This agrees with what is reported by Lieutenant Campbell in the Chumbi Valley (see his Frontier Confidential Report, dated the 12th November, 1906).

The Jongpens are also said to have ordered peasants not to supply us with anything, but denied to me that they had given any such orders.

They have given to Mr. Gow a rate which, they say, we should pay for supplies. The rates we are already paying are the market rates (with the exception of the price we are paying for barley, which is, I find, rather too little).

It would seem that the Jongpens are trying to get Mr. Gow to fix an exorbitant rate for everything though actual proof of this is impossible.

The meetings with Mr. Gow were very friendly.



Inclosure 10 in No. 37.

*Mr. Gow to Lieutenant Bailey.*

(Extract.)

November 21, 1906.

I THINK the best way I can suggest whenever you require a great quantity of such supplies as barley, grass, &c., to send for the Cheongpons two or three days beforehand and give them sufficient leave to collect them for you and stop your man called Tsai-yin-nee-ma so as to stop further troubles. Herewith I inclose you a market price list.

Inclosure 11 in No. 37.

*Lieutenant Bailey to Mr. Gow.*

Gyantse, November 22, 1906.

I HAVE made inquiries regarding the matters about which you spoke to me yesterday.

2. The mule-driver against whom a complaint has been made by the men of Xala is now away carrying the post. On his return, I will inquire into the case.

3. With regard to the case of the head groom, Tsering-Nyima tells me that he went to the three villages you named, and asked for supplies. He denies that he threatened the villagers in any way. As these villages are all close to Gyantse, it would, I think, be more satisfactory if the villagers came in in person, so that the accusers and accused might be confronted. The head groom says that the villagers promised to send the grass and grain asked for by the 20th November, and he has letters to this effect from the headmen of all three villages.

4. Regarding the case in which supplies were stopped from going to you, Dawa Gyeng-dze denies the charge. It would facilitate my inquiries if you would also kindly order those men to be sent into me. I am extremely sorry if you have been put to any personal inconvenience over this matter.

5. To avoid any trouble between the sepoy and the Thibetans in the bazaar, a non-commissioned officer is now being daily stationed there as a policeman between 8 A.M. and 12 noon. If any of the people connected with the British Trade Agency are found causing trouble of any kind in the bazaar, this non-commissioned officer (who wears a distinctive dress) will take charge of them. I am afraid that if the Chinese police whom you are posting in the bazaar attempt to arrest any of our people, there may be trouble which I know we are both most anxious to avoid. There will, I think, be no danger of this if the non-commissioned officer arrests such defaulters and sends them immediately into me.

6. I entirely approve of the suggestion in your letter that I should inform the Jongpens of our requirements, in order that they may give the necessary orders. This will most certainly stop any future trouble. This was, in fact, what I myself asked the Jongpen to do last August, when he said that the amount we required was more than could be supplied by Gyantze Jong alone, and he would have to refer the matter to the Lhasa authorities, so that other Jongs might be ordered to furnish part of the supplies required.

I saw the two Jongpens this afternoon and told them the daily amount of each article required by us and at the same time asked him to send in fifteen days' supplies.

7. I am afraid that the rates in the market price list you have so kindly sent me may be rather higher than Thibetans usually pay among themselves. I would suggest that before a market rate is finally fixed, we should have a consultation with the Jongpens, and some traders, and then fix a rate for each article. I may add that I would wish to fix a rate slightly above the market price.

If this were done, and the Jongpens then gave orders to the villagers to supply what was wanted, there could be no possible cause for such troubles as may have occurred in the past.

With regard to the fifteen days' supplies which the Jongpens have been asked to send in, I told them that I would pay for these at the old rates on receipt of the supplies, and that after we had fixed on a market rate any difference between the amount actually paid and the market rate as fixed by us would be adjusted retrospectively from to-day. They were both pleased with arrangement.



I propose leaving here on the 24th instant and returning on the 29th instant, and so would be very glad if you will please have the villagers sent in to me to-morrow in order to enable me to investigate these cases before I go.

I am sending you herewith an electric bell and two batteries, some Reuter's telegram and a goose, which I hope you will accept with my compliments.

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Inclosure 12 in No. 37.

*Mr. Bell to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Gangtok, December 8, 1906.*

WITH reference to the telegrams, cited in the margin,\* received from the Officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantse, which have been repeated to you by Lieutenant Bailey, I have the honour to report as follows on the points raised:—

1. *Punishment by Mr. Gow of Chumbi Valley Inhabitants at Gyantse.*—The Officiating British Trade Agent reports to me that Mr. Gow fined an inhabitant of the Chumbi Valley 2 rupees for making a disturbance in the bazaar at Gyantse, and asks whether Chumbi Valley men in Gyantse are to be considered as amenable to our jurisdiction only. I do not think that we can object to this action on the part of Mr. Gow, since such jurisdiction is usually territorial and not personal. If jurisdiction were personal, the Chinese might claim to try Chinamen in the Chumbi Valley, Sikkim, and British India. We should, however, insist on the right to exercise jurisdiction over our sepoys and other servants, public and private, at Gyantse, as I was careful not to exercise jurisdiction over Mr. Chang's servants in the Chumbi Valley.

2. *Mr. Gow's Rank.*—I would request to be informed whether Mr. Gow's appointment at Gyantse has been notified in the "Peking Gazette," or whatever paper in China corresponds to the "Gazette of India," and, if so, what is his rank, his official designation, and the name and designation of his immediate official superior. It may be advisable for me to correspond with the latter if Mr. Gow's present attitude continues.

3. *Purchase of Supplies through Mr. Gow.*—Lieutenant Bailey is of opinion that the purchase of supplies through Mr. Gow will not prevent friction. The whole of the Lhasa Convention presupposes our right to deal direct with the Thibetans. In the event of our supplies being stopped, I think we should pay for them at Mr. Gow's rates under protest, pending the result of a joint inquiry by Lieutenant Bailey and the Jongpens as to the fairness of the rates paid by us at present. I have already telegraphed to Lieutenant Bailey to hold such an inquiry with the Jongpens and to report the result. If it should be found that Mr. Gow's rates are too high, the difference should be refunded to us. A reference to Mr. Gow's letter of the 21st November, 1906 (*vide* inclosure to my letter, dated the 6th December, 1906), will show that he has agreed for the time being to our obtaining our supplies direct from the Jongpens.

4. *Alleged Breach of Treaty by the British Trade Agent.*—Mr. Gow accuses Lieutenant Bailey of committing a breach of the Treaty by introducing compulsory vaccination, which he says is an interference with the internal administration of the country. Mr. Gow has evidently been misinformed, as vaccination, not being compulsory, is in no way an interference with the administration of Thibet. The Jongpens and other leading Thibetans welcomed its introduction (*vide* Captain Steen's Report, dated the 14th December, 1905, a copy of which was submitted with Mr. White's letter, dated the 5th February, 1906), and there is nothing to show that they have changed their minds about it.

5. I abstain from commenting on the language contained in Mr. Gow's letter, as referred to in the British Trade Agent's telegram, dated the 5th December, 1906), until I receive from the British Trade Agent the letter which he is sending me on the subject.

6. I have just received a telegram from Lieutenant Bailey, saying that Mr. Gow's attitude has become more reasonable.

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\* See Inclosures 4, 5, and 6.



## Inclosure 13 in No. 37.

*Diary of Lieutenant Bailey, Officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for the week ending November 24, 1906.*

November 21.—Mr. Gow, whose official designation is "Chinese Trade and Diplomatic Agent," called on me to-day. He informed me of the particulars of some complaints, made to him through the Jongpen by villagers, against men sent out by me to collect supplies, and asked me in future to get all supplies through him. I told him I would ask for orders on this point.

November 22.—I sent for the two Jongpens to-day and talked to them about the complaints which he made through Mr. Gow, and also some other matter.

November 23.—Mr. Gow came to see me again to-day. We discussed certain matters and investigated the complaints above referred to. He stayed to lunch, and Lieutenants Auchinleck, Stewart, and I, went to dinner with him in the evening.

*Gyantse, November 24, 1906.*

## Inclosure 14 in No. 37.

*Mr. Bell to Government of India.*

(Extract.)

*Gangtok, November 28, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith notes on two conversations, which I have held with Mr. Chang in Gyantse. The main points are as follows:—

13. *Oppression of Local people by British Trade Agent's servants.*—I assured Mr. Chang that we would do all in our power to punish offenders, and invited the co-operation of his officials in bringing such cases to our notice. I used to hear since the agency was opened in 1904 that such cases were occurring, and immediately on arrival at Gyantse, warned Lieutenant Bailey to use all his endeavours to detect such cases and punish the offenders, since they bring disgrace upon our good name. Lieutenant Bailey had already dismissed, though for a different offence, the head of the transport corps, a notorious offender in this respect. Most of the offenders in the British Trade Agent's employ are Thibetans, not Indians or Nepalese.

*Extract from Notes on a Conversation between Mr. Chang, Chinese Imperial High Commissioner, and Mr. Bell, at Gyantse, on November 12, 1906.*

(Confidential.)

9. *Extortion of money and supplies in name of the British Trade Agent.*—Mr. Chang said that there had been cases of extorting money in the name of the British Trade Agent.

Mr. Bell said that the British Trade Agent would always welcome information leading to the conviction of such offenders, in order that he might punish them with the utmost rigour. If the culprit was not under our jurisdiction, he hoped he would be similarly dealt with.

Mr. Chang said that he had a pile of petitions referring to that sort of thing, and that when all other matters were settled, he would inquire into them and punish the people over whom he had power.

## Inclosure 15 in No. 37.

*Mr. Bell to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Gangtok, December 8, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the policy which Mr. V. C. Henderson, of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs at present attached to Mr. Chang's staff, is

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endeavouring to induce Mr. Chang to adopt with regard to Thibetan affairs is as follows:—

2. China to take advantage of the fresh opportunity offered to her by the Anglo-Chinese Adhesion Agreement to assert Chinese authority in Thibet. Ten thousand of the better Chinese troops to be stationed in Thibet. In the Chumbi Valley some of these soldiers and some police, about one hundred in all to be posted. A better class of Chinese officials to be stationed in Thibet. (Mr. Chang's party, when in the Chumbi Valley, were surprised to find that neither the Chinese Tungling nor the Chinese Po-pon, the two head Chinese officials in the Chumbi Valley, knew the whereabouts of Bhutan, though the Bhutan frontier is distant only a few miles from their residences.) The Thibetans, from the Ti-Rimpoche downwards, to be kept in the back-ground as far as possible. [In this connection it may be mentioned that Mr. Henderson, saying that Lieutenant Bailey, British Trade Agent at Gyantse, had told him that the Ti-Rimpoche had refused to sell any land for the Agency site at Gyantse, told me that when Mr. Chang reached Lhasa he would reprimand the Ti-Rimpoche for interfering with what concerned the Government of China alone. Mr. Gow's demand to Lieutenant Bailey that all the British supplies should be obtained through him (Mr. Gow) alone is also no doubt a part of the same policy. This latter subject has been separately reported on—*vide* my letter dated the 7th (8th) December, 1906.]

3. Mr. Henderson is sanguine of his ability to prevail on Mr. Chang to follow the above policy as long as he is with him, but think that in time the traditional Chinese policy of *laissez-faire* will assert itself, and that in the end the relations between China and Thibet will revert to the conditions existing previous to the recent Thibet Mission.

4. Such is the policy, and such are Mr. Henderson's expectations in regard to it. In the meanwhile, we should, I think, be careful, so far as serious disadvantage seems unlikely to accrue, to attain direct dealings with the Thibetans. The Thibetan Government are afraid of Mr. Chang, and so long as the latter remains in Thibet, the Chinese grip is likely to be fairly firm. But after he has left we may expect it to be loosened.

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Inclosure 16 in No. 37.

*Mr. Bell to Government of India.*

*Gangtok, December 13, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of a letter received from the British Trade Agent at Gyantse, and to supplement my previous report on this subject with the following remarks:—

2. I should, perhaps, have stated in that report that I had telegraphed to Lieutenant Bailey to abstain from exercising jurisdiction over Chumbi Valley men when the latter are on the Gyantse side of the Tang La—for the present, at any rate.

3. *Purchase of Supplies through Mr. Gow.*—The inquiry referred to will be held by Captain O'Connor on his arrival at Gyantse. When I wrote my despatch dated the 8th December, 1906, I was not aware that Lieutenant Bailey had been ordered to come to Gangtok and make over charge here to Captain O'Connor, no intimation of these orders having been communicated to me. I would take this opportunity of reiterating my opinion, in agreement with Lieutenant Bailey, that we should continue to deal direct with the Thibetans in this matter of obtaining supplies. The money we pay for supplies would not, in all probability, reach the peasants who actually send the supplies if it had first of all to pass through the hands of so many officials. In order that Mr. Gow may have no excuse for ordering the Jongpens to cut off our supplies, it will be best to allow him to be present at the inquiry held by the British Trade Agent and the Jongpens. On this point I am asking Captain O'Connor to give me his opinion on his arrival here on the 15th instant, and if he agrees with me we shall act accordingly.

4. *Alleged Breach of Treaty by British Trade Agent.*—In his diary for the week ending the 1st December, 1906, received yesterday, the British Trade Agent states that the Thibetans are now refusing to be vaccinated, in consequence of the Chinese attitude. In these circumstances vaccination should be discontinued until the Thibetans again desire it. We should be careful to avoid, especially at present,



anything that can be construed as a breach of the Convention. Lieutenant Bailey has already discontinued it pending the receipt of Government's orders on the point.

5. I inclose also a copy of a letter received by me from Mr. Gow on the 10th instant, and of my instructions to Captain O'Connor in connection with it. I am not replying to Mr. Gow direct, as in dealing with Chinese officials it is necessary to observe distinctions of rank somewhat carefully.

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Inclosure 17 in No. 37.

*Lieutenant Bailey to Mr. Bell.*

*Gyantse, December 5, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to report the following for your information :—

Mr. Gow wrote to me on the 21st November, 1906, saying that I should send for the Jongpens when I wanted supplies. Without referring to Mr. Gow, I sent for the Jongpens on the 22nd November and told them what supplies I required, and wired to you on the 23rd that Mr. Gow had agreed to my dealing direct with the Thibetan officials until orders were received from the Government of India. I left here on the 24th November, and, before I left, the Jongpens, in an interview on the 22nd November, promised to send in fifteen days' supplies. During my absence Mr. Gow wrote to Mr. Pierpoint (the Head Clerk), saying that the fifteen days' supplies were in his house, and asking Mr. Pierpoint to see them weighed there and take charge of them. This Mr. Pierpoint refused to do until my return. I returned on the 27th, and found that Mr. Pierpoint had asked the Jongpens to see him that day; the Jongpens sent a verbal message to say they would arrive, but did not do so, and I received a letter from Mr. Gow. As I was not expected back here till the 29th November, Mr. Gow's letter was evidently intended for the Head Clerk. On receiving this letter I wrote a reply, and in the interview the same day I told Mr. Gow that I had wired to Government, saying that he had agreed that supplies should be obtained direct from Thibetans until I had received orders to the contrary from the Government of India, and that I was surprised at his letter. He agreed, but said he had understood that they were to be weighed before him. I told him that he must have misunderstood me. He agreed to send supplies over, but wished to send Chinamen to see them weighed. I refused to agree to this, and said that, until orders were received, dealings must be direct with Thibetans. He at length agreed to this, but, next morning, when supplies came, a Chinese "chuprassi" in uniform was with them. I turned this man out of our buildings, and wrote to Mr. Gow and received his apology.

I sent for the Jongpens on the 30th November and 1st December, and on both occasions they came. As I did not refer to Mr. Gow on either of these occasions, I considered that Mr. Gow had again acquiesced in my dealing direct with Thibetan officials until I received orders to the contrary.

On the evening of the 3rd December I received a letter from Mr. Gow and sent a reply, of which a copy is inclosed.

Regarding the question of the mules for the vaccinators, referred to in Mr. Gow's letter, the matter stands as follows :—

My Thibetan clerk (Shabdung Lama) wrote to the Jongpens asking for the transport, and received a written order (translation inclosed), sealed by the Jongpens, to the effect that three mules were to be supplied. On hearing this, Mr. Gow sent direct to the man who had been ordered to supply the mules, and also to the Jongpens, countermanding the order, and at the same time wrote to me. The Jongpens, however, on the 4th December, sent the ponies, saying that they had given the order and must adhere to their word. I, however, returned the ponies, as other arrangements had been made and the vaccinators had left.

With regard to the above, I have the honour to draw your attention to the following points :—

Mr. Gow, on the 21st November, admitted my right to deal direct with the Thibetan officials. This admission was confirmed by the Jongpens coming to see me



on the 22nd November, on which occasion I told them what supplies were required. On the 27th November Mr. Gow denied my right to deal direct with the Thibetans, and in an interview on the same day he again admitted my right to do so. This admission was confirmed by his apology, and by the fact that on the 30th November, the 1st and 3rd December, the Jongpens came to see me about supplies without any reference being made by me to Mr. Gow. On the 3rd December Mr. Gow again denied my right to deal direct with the Thibetans.

From the above it will be seen how difficult the position of the British Trade Agent will be here if all our transactions with Thibetan officials have to be done through a man like Mr. Gow; and I have the honour to respectfully state it as my opinion that the only satisfactory solution of the matter will be for the Government of India to give orders that no Chinese official is to be recognized in any way as an intermediary between British and Thibetan officials.

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Inclosure 18 in No. 37.

*Mr. Gow to Lieutenant Bailey.*

*November 21, 1906.*

(Extract.)

I THINK the best way I can suggest whenever you require a great quantity of such supply as barley, grass, &c., to send for the Cheongpons two or three days beforehand and give them sufficient leave to collect them for you and stop your man called Tsai-yin-nee-ma, so as to stop further troubles. Herewith I inclose you a market price list.

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Inclosure 19 in No. 37.

*Lieutenant Bailey to Mr. Bell.*

*November 23, 1906.*

(Telegraphic.)

PALHESE not arrived yet.

Gow has agreed to the old arrangement about supplies being continued until orders received from Government.

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Inclosure 20 in No. 37.

*Mr. Gow to Lieutenant Bailey.*

*Gyantse, November 27, 1906.*

I BEG to inform you that your Agency has no right to summon any of the Thibetan officials, it is only to station here to look after the interests of British traders and must act everything under Treaty obligations, if your Agency has anything to say I am the only man to be indented.

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Inclosure 21 in No. 37.

*Lieutenant Bailey to Mr. Gow.*

*Gyantse, November 27, 1906.*

ON my return this morning I received your official letter of to-day's date.

If you would do me the favour of paying me a visit here this afternoon for the purpose of a friendly talk between us it would, I feel sure, remove any possible cause of misunderstanding.

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Inclosure 22 in No. 37.

*Lieutenant Bailey to Mr. Gow.*

*Gyantse, November 28, 1906.*

I UNDERSTOOD from our friendly talk yesterday that the supplies would be brought over by one of the Jongpen's men and not by one of your own men. However, I was surprised to see a Chinese servant with the supplies, and ordered him to go. He was extremely impertinent and refused to go when ordered. I hope the necessity of my turning the man out will not interfere in our friendly relations. As you yesterday assured me that you would not send one of your people I suppose the man did not come under your orders.

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Inclosure 23 in No. 37.

*Mr. Gow to Lieutenant Bailey.*

*Gyantse, November 28, 1906.*

THANKS for your kind letter, which had come to hand when I was on the point of writing to you to apologize for the appointment of my man to escort your supplies without my knowledge and consent; it was done by my native clerk at the request of the Jongpen's men. I have had both of them punished for their extraordinary acts, and sincerely regret and apologize for this unintentional misunderstanding.

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Inclosure 24 in No. 37.

*Mr. Gow to Lieutenant Bailey.*

*December 3, 1906.*

I AM very sorry writing to protest that you have done something that is quite broken the Treaty obligations. You are well aware that the British Trade Agency is to be stationed at Gyantse only to look after the interests of the British traders and not to allow to do anything interfering with the local administration. I have already notified you that you have no right to communicate direct with the Jongpen except your temporary supplies. According to report which has just reached me stating that you ordered three mules as transport for your compulsory vaccination mission between Gyantse and Kala. I was quite surprised to learn this that you should have done things which is absolutely encroach the power of the local Administration.

Now, I have already given orders to stop such transport, and am ready to wire our Government to protest this case to your Minister at Peking.

I should be greatly obliged by a reply of explanation about the said case.

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Inclosure 25 in No. 37.

*Lieutenant Bailey to Mr. Gow.*

*Gyantse, December 4, 1906.*

I WAS extremely surprised to receive your letter late yesterday evening. I thought that you quite understood that until I had received orders from the Government of India regarding you, I was unable to recognize you as an intermediary between myself and the Thibetan officials, and I understood you to say in a friendly conversation the other day that you entirely acquiesced in this arrangement, and the fact that the Jongpens have since then several times come over here to see me confirmed me in the belief. However, as you now again object to my dealing direct with the Jongpens and have even gone so far as to countermand written order of the Jongpens to people under them to supply me with transport, I will wire about this matter and also forward all the correspondence to India, and add that, in my opinion, you are acting somewhat unreasonably in this matter by not allowing sufficient time to



elapse for me to receive definite orders from the Government of India before I deal with the Thibetans through you. I am leaving orders behind that the Thibetan officials are to be dealt with direct should the necessity occur during the absence of the British Trade Agent. Though I cannot discuss this matter with you owing to my not having been officially notified of your powers, I feel obliged to deny that I have broken the Treaty in any way, and would deem it a favour if you would be more explicit and tell me which clause of the Treaty I have broken.

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Inclosure 26 in No. 37.

*Translation of Jongpens' Order.*

I GIVE order to all Headmen and villagers from here to Kala, these three men are being sent by the Doctor Sahib to Kala to vaccinate. They want three horses on payment, and are going and returning once according to the custom of the country; give three (?) horses on payment, and let them stop in your villages. They have been ordered not to give trouble. When they return I want this letter back.

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Inclosure 27 in No. 37.

*Mr. Gow to Mr. Bell.*

*Gyantse, December 4, 1906.*

Dear Mr. Bell,

I AM extremely sorry that I should have written to inform you that the troubles caused by your Trade Agency at Gyantse, for getting supplies by exaction. I got more than twenty petitions accusing those natives of your agency who have hitherto got supplies for the agency by forcible rates.

Either those exacting rates fixed by the agency, or was fixed by the natives of the agency, it is something disgraced the reputation of a civilized country, and give the Thibetans cause to anti-foreign.

In order to stop this nuisance, I suggested to Mr. Bailey better let the supplies through me while I was informing him that the native named Tsering Nyima had threatened three villagers in this vicinity to confiscate their stores on account of their not being able to afford the supplies as the defaulter demanded, Mr. Bailey told me that he had referred the matter to you, and would let me know when he had received answer to that effect. Meanwhile, I again suggested better stop the notorious Tsering Nyima of your agency to go out to get supplies let the Jongpens get the supplies for the agency temporarily on condition that the agency should pay its supplies according to the respective prices prevailable among the Thibetans.

I received a letter from Mr. Bailey on the 22nd ultimo saying "with regard to the fifteen days' supplies which the Jongpens have been asked to send in, I told them that I would pay for these at the old rates on receipt of the supplies, and that after we had (between Mr. Bailey and I) fixed on a market rate, any difference between the amount actually paid and the market rate as fixed by us, would be adjusted retrospectively from to-day."

After this letter having been received besides, I obtained the market price list from the Thibetans. I also asked the Nepalese trade agent and two Nepalese merchants to give me a list of the recent market rates. I handed both of these lists to Mr. Bailey on the 28th ultimo.

The rates of the fifteen days' supplies had been paid, but the Jongpens complained that except the price of lambs and grains were slightly increased, but the rest remained the same.

It seemed not right to buy supplies by force or exaction, herewith I take the liberty to inclose you a price list which has been presented to me by the Thibetans. Unless you will instruct your agency to pay its supplies according to the market price, I shall stop the Jongpens to get another one month supplies for your agency at the exacting rates.

On the 3rd instant Mr. Bailey appointed a medical mission to give compulsory vaccination to the natives as far as Kala; this was a breach of the Treaty obligation, and encroached the power of the internal administration.

According to the Convention signed by China and Britain on the 27th April, 1906, at Peking, Article II, the British Government engages not to annex Thibetan



territory or to interfere in the internal administration, and China also undertakes not to permit any foreign State to interfere with the territory or internal administration.

Compulsory vaccination is quite clear as one of the internal administrations, therefore the British Trade Agent shall not be permitted to interfere with, although I stopped the transport for the compulsory vaccination mission, and protested the violation of the Treaty obligation to Mr. Bailey, on the contrary he complained my action was somewhat unreasonable, so I am very sorry that I was obliged to report the case to his Excellency Chang and our Government.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) A. H. GOW, *Chinese Commissioner.*

B. T. A.,

1. Please inform the Jongpens of Gyantse by telegram of the approximate date on which you will hold the inquiry into rates for which I have already asked.

2. Please also report whether there is any ground for Mr. Gow's statement that vaccination is compulsory. I understand that, before its introduction, the idea was welcomed by the Jongpens and leading men. Is it still welcomed by the Thibetan Government and by the people who are vaccinated? Has any complaint been received about it from any Thibetan official?

3. Please inquire into the complaint against Tsering Nyima, and report the result of your inquiries.

4. Please inform Mr. Gow that the matters of which he complains are already being inquired into, and that a reply will be sent to him as soon as the inquiry is completed, and that the transfer of British Trade Agents has necessarily delayed the inquiry.

(Signed) C. A. BELL.

December 10, 1906.

*Later.*

In view of further information since received from Lieutenant Bailey, the report on point (2) above is no longer required.

(Signed) C. A. BELL.

December 12, 1906.

The prices of the bazaar and other places cannot be a fixed rate.

				Rs.	a.
Sheep, 1st class	..	..	Price 1 strang 5 shos ..	=	3 6
" 2nd "	..	..	" 1 strang 3 shos 1 kama ..	=	3 1
Goat, 1st class	..	..	" 1 strang 1 kama each ..	=	2 6
" 2nd "	..	..	9 shos ..	=	1 9
Grains, wheat, Tenzim, Karu	..	..	About 15 seers 8 shos ..	=	1 13
Grass	..	..	1 maund 3 shos 1 kbakhang ..	=	0 12
Meat	..	..	1 " 4 " ..	=	0 14
Dung	..	..	1 " 3 " ..	=	0 11

The above rates are submitted by the two Zongnyers.

Inclosure 28 in No. 37.

*Mr. Bell to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Gangtok, December 14, 1906.*

IN continuation of my letter dated the 13th December, 1906, in the matter of Mr. Gow's proceedings at Gyantse, I have the honour to submit herewith the copy of a letter received from Lieutenant Bailey, with its inclosure.



2 I would suggest that, if Government considers it advisable, a representation should be made in the proper quarter against the terms "high-handedness" and "robbers," and the general tenour of the language employed by Mr. Gow in his letter to Lieutenant Bailey.

3. The correspondence between Lieutenant Bailey and Mr. Gow will, I think, show that, even if it be decided that the British Trade Agent is to recognize the Chinese as intermediaries between himself and the Thibetans, Mr. Gow is not the type of official that the British Trade Agent should have to deal with. Not only has he written in unwarrantable terms to Lieutenant Bailey—who has shown uniform courtesy towards him—but, as shown by Lieutenant Bailey in his letter dated the 5th December (inclosure to my letter dated the 13th December, 1906), Mr. Gow has broken his promise not to interfere with our dealing direct with the Thibetans until a decision on this question is arrived at by the Government of India.

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Inclosure 29 in No. 37.

*Lieutenant Bailey to Mr. Bell.*

*Gangtok, December 14, 1906.*

IN continuation of my letter dated the 5th December, 1906, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a letter received from Mr. Gow in reply to my letter written to him on the 4th December, 1906 (Inclosure (H) of my above-quoted letter).

2. The letter was received after I had left Gyantse, and has not been answered. The head clerk has, however, told Mr. Gow verbally that the vaccination is not compulsory, and that my promise—which Mr. Gow asserts has been broken—still holds good, but I have not yet had an opportunity of fixing fresh rates.

3. The tone of Mr. Gow's letter will, I venture to think, be an additional reason for insisting on our dealing direct with the Thibetan officials (as is indeed laid down in Clause V of the Lhasa Convention), and thus avoiding the necessity of having any official dealings with a man like Mr. Gow.

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Inclosure 30 in No. 37.

*Mr. Gow to Lieutenant Bailey.*

*Gyantse, December 4, 1906.*

YOUR letter of to-day's date has just come to hand. I am extremely sorry that you should think it was acting unreasonably in stopping your unreasonable compulsory vaccination mission's transport.

As regards to compulsory vaccination, it is our internal administration. According to the Convention signed by China and Great Britain on the 27th April, 1906, at Peking, Article II, "The Government of Great Britain engages not to annex Thibetan territory or to interfere with the administration of Thibet. The Chinese Government also undertakes not to permit any other foreign State to interfere with the territory or internal administration." I hope this will be explicit for you to understand that you have broken the Treaty obligation by appointing your doctor to give a compulsory vaccination to the natives as far as Kala. Compulsory vaccination is quite clear that is one of the internal administration and has nothing to do with the British Trade Agent, so he shall not be allowed to take such trouble.

With regard to your not recognizing my appointment as Chinese Commissioner at Gyantse the same as I cannot acknowledge the appointment of the British Trade Agency until I had been notified by our Government; if we go back to the Yatung Trade Regulations, Articles I and II, the residence of the officer who was sent by the Government of India to watch the condition of the British trade at the mart shall provided by our Government, no doubt you understood all about this.

Since I am appointed by my Government as Commissioner to administrate Gyantse I can assure you that I have my own right and power to do anything to protect the natives, and to stop those high handedness, robbers, and exacting rates for paying supplies from your agency.

It is quite unreasonable for you to break your promise in your letter, dated 22nd ultimo, saying "with regard to the fifteen days' supplies which the Jongpens have



been asked to send in. I told them I would pay for them at the old rates on receipt of the supplies, and that after we had fixed on a market rate any difference between the amount actually paid and the market rate as fixed by us would be adjusted retrospectively from to-day."

Did you pay for that fifteen days' supplies by the market rate as I handed to you on the 28th ultimo? If so, why the Jongpens made complaint against you, saying except lambs, and grains which have been increased a little to the old rates and the rest remained the same.

I must assure you that unless your Agency pays its supplies according to the market rate I shall stop the Jongpens to send in the another one month supplies at an exacting price.

It is absolutely wrong for civilized people to buy things by force and exaction as there are twenty-four petitions presented before his Excellency Chang against your Agency for exaction, which have been handed down to me for inspection.

I am sorry that I obliged wire the particulars to my Government to have all the cases to be dealt with your Government.

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No. 38.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 28.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 27th January, relative to the trade marts in Thibet.

*India Office, January 28, 1907.*

*Inclosure in No. 38.*

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*January 27, 1907.*

THIBET. Your telegram dated the 10th instant.

Report from Political Officer states that he was informed by Mr. Gow, at Gyantse, on the 14th November, 1906, in presence of Messrs. Henderson, Bailey, and Chang, that trade mart had been opened by Chang. Apparently no opening ceremony was performed and no further particulars were given. Opening of mart was not notified in writing.

Report from Lieutenant Bailey states that he was informed on separate occasions, both by Mr. Gow and Mr. Henderson, that trade mart was formally opened on the 14th November by Chang.

As regards telegram addressed to Foreign Office on the 13th instant by His Majesty's Minister at Peking, no letter from Chang notifying in writing to Government of India that trade mart had been opened with effect from the 1st January, 1905, can be traced. Address and date of communication in question could perhaps be ascertained by Sir J. Jordan.

Chang's declaration opening mart on the 14th November was designed for our consumption only, as part of policy of displaying Chinese authority in Thibet as the only effective authority there.

No local ceremony seems to have taken place at Gyantse in connection with Chang's opening of the mart.

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No. 39.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 15.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, January 30, 1907.*

BEHAVIOUR of Chinese official at Gyantse: Your telegram No. 9 of the 13th instant, and Viceroy of India's letters to Secretary of State of the 27th December, 1906, and the 3rd instant.

[1722]

Q



It does not appear from papers inclosed in the letters from the Viceroy referred to above that any agreement has been concluded between the British and Chinese Agents at Gyantse, or between Mr. Chang and Mr. Bell, that all questions which refer to supplies should be settled as they arose by Mr. Gow, or that the price of supplies notified by him should be accepted as final.

The orders to the Jongpens, mentioned in the Viceroy's telegram of the 19th instant, should be revoked by Chang, or if the Jongpens are misrepresenting the facts, Chang should openly repudiate them.

[3222]

No. 40.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 16.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, January 30, 1907.*

OPENING of trade marts in Thibet: Viceroy of India's telegram of the 27th instant, and your telegrams Nos. 3 and 5 of the 5th and 14th instant.

Unless the Chinese reopen the matter, it is unnecessary to pursue it further, as it has been agreed that the 1st January, 1905, is to be recognized as the date of the opening of the trade marts.

[2243]

No. 41.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

(Secret.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, January 30, 1907.*

WITH reference to my letter of to-day's date, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg\* on the subject of the inclusion in the proposed Anglo-Russian Agreement of a provision prohibiting for a specified period the entry of British and Russian scientific missions into Thibet.

His Excellency reports at the same time that M. Isvolsky has again inquired what, in the view of His Majesty's Government, are the boundaries of Thibet.

As you are aware, before instructions are sent on the subject to Sir A. Nicolson, a definite reply is awaited from the Chinese Government to the inquiry made of them whether they accept the boundaries to the north suggested by the Viceroy of India in his telegram of the 13th July, 1906, and whether they make no special claims on East Thibet beyond certain points.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[3750]

No. 42.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 2.)*

(No. 14.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*St. Petersburg, February 2, 1907.*

THIBET: My despatch No. 31 of the 15th January.

M. Isvolsky's proposals as to the wording of preamble and of Article II of Thibet Convention. It would, I think, advance matters if I could communicate to Minister for Foreign Affairs views of His Majesty's Government in regard to these points, and I would also be grateful to receive your instructions as to the declaration proposed by me in my despatch No. 35 of the 16th ultimo in regard to the occupation of the Chumbi Valley.

I have ventured to trouble you, as I consider that the present moment is a very favourable one for making progress with our negotiations.



[3753]

No. 43.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 4.)*

(No. 41. Most Confidential.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, January 19, 1907.*

THE Japanese Minister called on me yesterday afternoon, and, in the course of conversation, inquired of me whether my negotiations with M. Isvolsky were making any marked progress. I gave Mr. Motono in confidence a general outline of the position of affairs, and I added that, although it was possible that an agreement on the main points might eventually be reached, I feared that M. Isvolsky might hesitate to give the final touch to the Convention if he had not, in the meantime, succeeded in satisfactorily concluding his discussions with the Japanese Government.

Mr. Motono observed that he did not understand why the Russian negotiations with Great Britain should be in any way affected by those passing between Russia and Japan. I told him that I was similarly perplexed, but, so far as I could gather, the views of M. Isvolsky were as follows: He was, I understood, apprehensive that the Japanese Government would insist on certain demands, to which Russia would have eventually to submit, and that consequently he would have to present to the public a Commercial Treaty and a Fisheries Convention which would not be considered satisfactory. At the same time he would have signed an Agreement with Great Britain, the ally of Japan, which would, in the eyes of many, place a distinct check on Russian policy in the Middle East, and therefore criticism would be severe on a policy which turned to the disadvantage of Russia, both in the Far East and in Central Asia. It was not, I said, difficult to combat these fears and apprehensions, but I wished to place before him what I thought was at the back of the mind of M. Isvolsky.

Mr. Motono remarked that it seemed to him that M. Isvolsky was unnecessarily alarmed, and was conjuring up difficulties and dangers which did not in reality exist. So far as the Japanese negotiations were concerned, he repeated to me what he had said on former occasions, to the effect that Japan was presenting no demands on which an understanding could not be effected, and that he was unable to comprehend why an agitation in the public press had been fomented. Mr. Motono entered into considerable detail on this point, with the object of explaining to me that the Japanese Government were simply requesting the due fulfilment of the provisions of the Treaty of Portsmouth. With respect to the discussions proceeding with Great Britain, his Government perfectly understood their general character and objective, and they would be well content were the negotiations to reach a happy conclusion. He should have thought that, as a simple matter of diplomatic tactics, it would have been wise on the part of the Russian Government to have expedited and facilitated these negotiations, and he could not understand why M. Isvolsky should hesitate to conclude them. He perfectly recognized that it would be almost impossible for M. Isvolsky to satisfy all parties in Russia and to win unanimous approval either in the Japanese or in the British negotiations. Russian public opinion was extremely sensitive at this moment, and there was always an underlying fear that foreign countries, especially Japan and Great Britain, were ready to take advantage of the difficulties of Russia, and to impose conditions which were onerous. He had taken great pains to give no ground for such an impression, but he considered that a Foreign Minister should rise above such considerations, and should discard all thoughts of personal popularity and keep solely in view the true interests of his country. He feared that M. Isvolsky had not sufficient strength of character, nor felt himself thoroughly assured of his own position, to take a decided line. He knew that he poured out lamentations to this and that Ambassador, and even to newspaper correspondents, but he had never frankly unbosomed himself to him, or told him candidly where his difficulty lay. He knew that the Russian Government had caused an intimation to be given in Paris that no Japanese loan should be entertained until the negotiations with Japan had been satisfactorily concluded. He was also aware that in foreign journals communications inspired by the Russian Foreign Office appeared from time to time describing the rapacity of Japan and the harshness of her terms. These were not the methods by which negotiations should be conducted, and he regretted that M. Isvolsky did not frankly explain what he desired and place confidence in the wish of the Japanese Government to conclude a fair and equitable arrangement which would remove all causes of mistrust and misunderstanding.

I told Mr. Motono that it would be fair to make every allowance for the difficulties



of M. Isvolsky's position. I had complete confidence myself in his loyalty and sincerity of purpose, but there were many elements or forces both inside and outside of his Ministry which it was extremely difficult for a comparative stranger as he was to overcome. I had, I said, indicated to him some of the apprehensions which were haunting M. Isvolsky, and I thought that, after what he said, I might go farther and frankly state to him what I believed were the wishes and hopes of his Excellency. I would not conceal from him that M. Isvolsky had spoken to me, in a general sense, of his troubles and perplexities, and I could also confess that I found it exceedingly embarrassing when he touched upon the question of his negotiations with Japan. He would understand that it was a question in which neither my Government nor myself had any desire to intervene unless the Japanese Government requested us to do so; and I always endeavoured to glide off the subject directly M. Isvolsky approached it, and I had carefully avoided expressing any opinion.

I understood, however, that M. Isvolsky was desirous of reassuring himself, and, presumably, his Government and country, that Japan had no ulterior designs on the position of Russia in the Far East. He, on his part, was, I believe, perfectly ready to give any assurances or guarantees that Russia had no desire of seeking to recover in any form what she had lost by the late war. She had been defeated, and was ready to abide by the consequences faithfully and loyally, but M. Isvolsky would like, I believed, in what form I did not know, some arrangement which would insure that Russia and Japan would live amicably together and which would, humanly speaking, guarantee the peace in the Far East. If some such arrangement were made a great weight would be removed from M. Isvolsky's mind, and he would then be able to come to terms with Great Britain. I begged Mr. Motono to understand that I had not been requested by M. Isvolsky to mention the above to him; in fact, I should have declined to be an intermediary had he asked me, but as we were talking frankly and confidentially together, and as the aims and policy of our two Governments were identical, I considered that I might privately convey to him my impressions.

Mr. Motono said that he was very grateful to me for having spoken to him so fully, and that I could trust him to consider what I had said as strictly personal and confidential. He could assure me that his Government desired nothing better than to be on amicable relations with Russia and to see peace maintained in the Far East. Without betraying the confidence I had placed in him, he would take an opportunity of leading M. Isvolsky on to the ground which I had indicated; and if he made any proposals of the nature which I had sketched he would be happy to communicate them to his Government. It would, he thought, be an admirable consummation if Great Britain and Japan could establish such relations with Russia as would make for peace in Central Asia as well as in the Middle and the Far East.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[3770]

No. 44.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 4.)*

(No. 60.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, January 30, 1907.*

I SHOULD be grateful if I might be furnished with the draft of a note which I could submit to M. Isvolsky in regard to the suspension of the dispatch of scientific missions into Thibet for a period of five years. I would then suggest to M. Isvolsky that he should address a similar note, *mutatis mutandis*, to me; and these notes, together with a declaration as to the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley, could form Annexes to the Convention regarding Thibet.

I do not know if His Majesty's Government would be disposed to insert in the note any phrases indicating that the two Governments undertake to request the Chinese Government to prohibit, during the period of five years, so far as lies in their power, any scientific expeditions of any nationality from entering Thibet from the north. I think that some undertaking of that nature would facilitate the acceptance by the Russian Government of our note, as, from the conversations which I have held with M. Isvolsky, I have noticed that he finds it difficult to accept a prohibition of Russian expeditions so long as the field of exploration is open to the enterprise of nationalities other than British and Russian.

There is another point in connection with the Thibet Convention to which I would respectfully call attention. I am instructed to obtain the recognition by the



Russian Government that His Majesty's Government cannot admit the presence in Thibet of Russian officials in any capacity whatever. I feel confident that M. Isvolsky will regard this request as evidencing mistrust and also as superfluous, and would demur very strongly to it. It seems to me that if the Russian Government subscribe to the terms of the Convention, there would be every possible Treaty safeguard against illegitimate intervention on the part of Russian officials. Assuming that a Russian official were to make his appearance in Thibet, we would, I submit, be entitled to request explanations and his withdrawal. The Russian Government could not justify his presence, when both Governments have engaged to abstain from all interference in the internal affairs of Thibet, and have undertaken not to send a Representative to Lhassa, nor to seek for any concessions, nor to dispatch scientific expeditions for a specified period. It would be difficult to find any reason for the presence of such an official, assuming that the Thibetans were ready to admit him. Moreover, the general sense and aim of the Convention are to preclude all foreign interference or direct intercourse with Thibet, with the exception of those which are permitted by our Conventions with Thibet and China, and to which a special reference is made in the Convention we shall eventually sign with Russia. M. Isvolsky, when I first mentioned the matter to him, characterized the proposal as being a little *blessant* to Russia, and if it were possible I would submit it would be well to leave it aside.

If Russia contemplates entering at any time into secret relations with Thibetan authorities, it would, I imagine, be rather through agents of the standing and character of Dorjief than through Russian officials, who would probably be hardly fitted for the purpose. I fear it would not be possible to devise formulæ which would prevent and forestall any possible future desire to get behind the Convention, should the Russian Government wish to deviate from a loyal observance of their engagements.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[3988]

No. 45.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 4.)*

(No. 24.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, February 4, 1907.

PLEASE see your telegram No. 15 of the 30th ultimo: Thibet.

I communicated the contents of the Viceroy of India's telegram of the 19th January to Tang Shao-yi on the 21st ultimo. He promised to make inquiries by telegraph. Text of Chang's reply has now been communicated to me. In it he denies having forbidden the Jongpens dealing direct with the British Agent. He states that he had informed the Indian Foreign Department, by letter, of the appointment of five Thibetan officials at the three trade marts, and makes use of this fact as proof that he has put no interdiction on direct relations between British and Thibetan officials in trade matters.

After speaking on the 1st February at the Wai-wu Pu in the sense of your telegram above referred to, I sent them a Memorandum to the same effect on the following day.

I have repeated the above to the Government of India.

[4055]

No. 46.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 5.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 1st instant, relative to the date of the opening of the trade marts in Thibet.

*India Office, February 4, 1907.*

[1722]

R



Inclosure in No. 46.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, February 1, 1907.*

YOUR telegram dated the 27th January. Thibet.

Instructions have been sent to Sir J. Jordan that, unless Chinese reopen matter, question of opening of trade marts need not be further pursued, recognition of the 1st January, 1905, as date having been agreed upon.

[4056]

No. 47.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 5.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 3rd February, relative to the proceedings of Chinese in Thibet, and the proposals of the Government of India on the subject.

*India Office, February 4, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 47.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*February 3, 1907.*

THIBET: My telegram dated the 19th ultimo.

Telegram from Trade Agent, Gyantse, states that, according to report from Lhasa, which he considers absolutely trustworthy, Amban Yu Tai, the Amban concerned in the negotiations of the 1904 Convention, was dismissed office and imprisoned in fetters on the 12th ultimo; imprisonment of his Secretary also reported. Renewal of hostilities is constantly urged by Teling Depon, our former adversary at Khamba Jong (see Gyantse Agent's diary of the 5th August, 1905), who is now most influential person in Lhasa; former Shigatse and Chumbi "popons" and two other Chinese degraded. Desire to sweep away all Chinese officials connected with improvements of our relations with Thibetans seems to have inspired Chang's action. It is shown by further telegram from Captain O'Connor received yesterday that similar action is being taken against Thibetan officials concerned with recent negotiations. Chinese have degraded and dismissed General Tang and Yu Tok Shape, and threaten to inflict similar penalty on Sechung Shape. Captain O'Connor has not been called upon by Lhasa Delegate, who has been at Gyantse since the 28th ultimo. Captain O'Connor has further received letter from Tashi Lama stating that latter has been informed in writing by Chang that no further visits of British officers to Shigatse will be permitted by Chinese. Letter has been addressed to Secretary in Foreign Department by Chang inquiring names and rank of British Trade Agents at marts, with a view to reciprocal exchange of official communications between British and Chinese officers, and stating that he has appointed Chinese officers as diplomatic and commercial representatives at trade marts to settle diplomatic affairs, and look after interests of traders at respective marts. This is, in our opinion, a possible step towards conversion of these marts into Treaty ports, whereby objects of our policy in Thibet would be entirely defeated, as well as an attempt to evade provision of Article V of Lhasa Convention, under which Thibetan Government is to appoint Thibetan agents at marts. Indubitable proof of Chang's determination to upset *status quo* and destroy position secured to us by Mission is, we consider, afforded by these incidents when taken in conjunction with facts already reported as to his persistent refusal to permit direct communication at trade marts between British and Thibetans. As Mr. Henderson stated recently to Captain O'Connor, Chang evidently takes the view that virtual recognition of Chinese sovereignty over Thibet was involved in signature of Adhesion Agreement, and that "Chinese authorities in Thibet" should consequently be the interpretation placed on phrase "Thibetan Government," wherever latter occurs in Lhasa Convention.



In order that Chinese Government may be convinced of nature of our claims, and that situation in Thibet may be restored, we would urge that action is urgently required. Following suggestions are submitted :—

1. That His Majesty's Government should make such representations to Chinese Government as they may think suitable, conveying at same time warning that, in the event of Chang maintaining his present attitude, whole question of our dealings with Thibet will be affected.

2. That, as instalment of indemnity has not yet been paid, payment to Trade Agent through Thibetan official at Gyantse should be required, and arrangements recently conceded by His Majesty's Government for payment direct by Chinese should be cancelled. Our right of dealing direct with Thibetans, which we are still of opinion is likely to be weakened if Chinese interference in so important a point under the Convention is permitted, would be illustrated by adoption of this course.

3. That, in response to pressing invitation previously received from Tashi Lama, Captain O'Connor should be permitted to visit Shigatse. As Gyantse-Shigatse road is recognized trade route, such visit cannot be construed as breach of Convention (see Article II). Government of India's presents of dogs and motor-car could be conveyed to Tashi Lama by O'Connor. In view of action of Chinese in Thibet, we consider it of greatest importance that our friendly relations with Tashi Lama should be demonstrated. His personal safety at any rate would, we hope, be guaranteed by moral support, which our action would constitute; whereas we might be led into serious complications if Chinese authorities resorted to violence, of possibility of which there are signs, in the event of our neglecting our profession of friendship to Lama.

4. That Chang should be informed of names of British officials at Gartok and Gyantse trade marts, in reply to his letter to Secretary in Foreign Department; he would also be informed, when occupation of Chumbi Valley terminates, of the appointment of a Trade Agent in Chumbi. An intimation would be made at same time that our right to direct communication between British and Thibetans at trade marts is not prejudiced by appointment of Chinese officials there, and that we do not regard the latter as taking the place of Thibetan agents, who are being appointed under Article V of the 1904 Convention. Question of precedence to be claimed for our Trade Agent *vis-à-vis* the Chinese is being considered separately.

5. That copy of Chinese Adhesion Agreement should be formally communicated by us to the Lhasa Government, an intimation being conveyed that Thibetans are bound to obey terms of Lhasa Convention, which under Articles 1 and 4 of the 1906 Agreement remains in full force. Request for appointment of agents at trade marts under Article V of Lhasa Convention might be made simultaneously to Thibetan Government as practical demonstration of the above.

[4142]

No. 48.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 6.)*

Sir,

*India Office, February 5, 1907.*

IN reply to Sir Francis Campbell's letter of the 30th January, relative to M. Isvolsky's proposal to include in the proposed Anglo-Russian Agreement about Thibet the expression of a desire of the two Governments that no alterations should be introduced into the existing administrative system of Mongolia, I am directed to say that Mr. Morley would deprecate the importation into the Anglo-Russian negotiations of matters concerning Mongolia. It is to be observed that the restrictions upon Chinese authority in Mongolia, which M. Isvolsky desires to introduce, are hardly consistent with the policy of affirming Chinese authority in Thibet which is advocated by the Russian Government.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed)

HORACE WALPOLE.



[4175]

No. 49.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 6.)*

Sir,

*India Office, February 6, 1907.*

IN reply to Sir Francis Campbell's letter of the 30th January, forwarding the draft of an Annex to be attached to the Anglo-Russian Agreement respecting Thibet, reaffirming the Declaration appended to the Convention of September 1904, regarding the evacuation by Great Britain of the Chumbi Valley, I am directed to say that Mr. Secretary Morley sees no objection to Sir E. Grey's proposal to approve the terms of the draft.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[4176]

No. 50.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 6.)*

Sir,

*India Office, February 6, 1907.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge Sir Francis Campbell's letter of the 30th January on the subject of the proposed Anglo-Russian Agreement respecting Thibet.

Mr. Morley concurs in Sir E. Grey's opinion as to M. Isvolsky's proposed amendment of Article II. With regard to the preamble, he would observe that the formula proposed by M. Isvolsky practically reduces Great Britain's special interest to an obligation to see that the existing state of the foreign relations of Thibet with ourselves, as with other foreign Powers, is maintained in its integrity. This does not appear to Mr. Morley to correspond with the special position we hold, as compared with Russia, towards Thibet, referred to in Sir F. Campbell's letter of the 11th ultimo.

Mr. Morley would prefer that the preamble should be maintained in the form approved by His Majesty's Government; but he will not press the point if Sir E. Grey is satisfied that the Russian text affords all the security that can be obtained by Treaty stipulations.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[4287]

No. 51.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 8.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of correspondence relative to the assistance to be rendered to Dr. Sven Hedin in Thibet.

*India Office, February 7, 1907.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

*Government of India to Thakur Jai Chand.**Simla, November 15, 1906.*

I AM directed to inform you that Dr. Sven Hedin, who is at present travelling in Thibet, will spend the winter near Dangra Yum Tso. I am to request that you will render him any assistance that he may require in connection with the forwarding of letters, &c., or in other ways, but care should be taken in doing so to avoid arousing the suspicions of the Garpons.



Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

*Government of India to Mr. Bell.*

*Fort William, December 1, 1906.*

IN continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department dated the 17th ultimo, I am directed to request that the British Trade Agent at Gyantse may be instructed to arrange, if possible, for the transmission to Dangra Yum Tso of any letters that may reach him addressed to Dr. Sven Hedin at Gyantse. The Trade Agent should also be prepared to render the doctor any reasonable assistance he may require in other ways.

2. I am to add that Dr. Sven Hedin intends next spring to investigate the country south-east and east of Dangra Yum Tso thence proceeding to Manasarowar and Gartok. In the succeeding summer and autumn he proposes to travel down the Brahmaputra from its source to Shigatse. He does not expect to return to India till towards the close of 1907.

Inclosure 3 in No. 51.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, February 1, 1907.*

THIBET. Sven Hedin. Please see letters of the 15th November and the 27th December, 1906, addressed respectively to Agent, Gartok, and Political Officer, Sikkim. Please make it clear to officers concerned that former orders of His Majesty's Government are to be strictly enforced. Instructions to assist Sven Hedin "in other ways" besides forwarding letters seem open to misinterpretation as justifying action inconsistent with those orders. Is any particular form of assistance contemplated in letters referred to?

Inclosure 4 in No. 51.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*February 6, 1907.*

THIBET. Your telegram of the 1st instant. Sven Hedin's journey.

What I had in view was merely reasonable assistance of same nature as transmission of letters which we had been asked by Sven Hedin to afford, and which we might be able to render from our present position in Thibet, such as forwarding of specimens or stores, or possible advance of money at traveller's request. Instructions to that effect will be sent to Trade Agents. Trade Agent at Gyantse telegraphed yesterday that Sven Hedin expects to arrive at Shigatse by end of present month, and has had good journey.

[4176]

No. 52.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 10.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, February 8, 1907.*

THIBET Agreement.

Your despatch No. 31 of the 18th ultimo.

His Majesty's Government are prepared to accept the drafts of Articles 1 and 2 as proposed by M. Isvolsky. As regards the preamble, they prefer the draft prepared by you and submitted to me in your telegram No. 5 of the 7th January.

The Russian draft indicates that we have only a special interest in the maintenance of the *status quo* in Thibet, whereas we claim that we have a special interest in the external relations of Thibet generally in consequence of our geographical position.

You should therefore endeavour to obtain the acceptance of our draft, and we trust that M. Isvolsky will make no difficulty in this matter, as we are now accepting the Russian version of Article 2.

[1722]



Your despatch No. 18 of the 6th January. Exclusion of scientific missions from Thibet.

We hope shortly to send you a draft note in regard to this matter, which we are preparing in conjunction with the India Office.

Your despatch No. 35 of the 16th January. Annex respecting the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley.

The draft submitted by you in your above-mentioned despatch has my approval.

[4142]

No. 53.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 11.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, February 8, 1907.*

MONGOLIA and the draft Anglo-Russian Agreement respecting Thibet.

Your despatch No. 19 of the 6th January.

We have intimated to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires that it would be quite impossible for us to endeavour to restrict the action in Mongolia of China or any other Power.

Should the subject be recurred to by M. Isvolsky, you should inform him that we are not desirous of importing into the negotiations respecting Thibet matters which have no direct bearing on the question. We could not in any case go further than, if the Russian Government consider it worth while, to say that we shall be prepared, in view of the geographical position of Russian territory, to recognize her special interests in the districts of Mongolia which are coterminous with the territory under Russian dominion.

In the case of Thibet, our special interests are strictly limited by the Lhasa and Peking Convention, and in the case of Mongolia we could hardly be expected to recognize formally the special interests of Russia until they and the area to which they extend are defined.

[4392]

No. 54.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 9, 1907.)*

(No. 538.)

Sir,

*Peking, December 22, 1906.*

DURING an interview at the Wai-wu Pu on the 23rd ultimo I was asked what, in the view of His Majesty's Government, was to be considered the date of the effective opening of the trade marts mentioned in Article II of the Lhasa Convention. Mr. T'ong Shoa-Yi said that, if the Government of India did not consider them as already opened, his Government desired that an early date might be fixed for declaring them formally open. In point of fact, there was, he thought, nothing to be arranged. There were officers on the spot to take the necessary steps under the Convention, and, as far as he was aware, the sole point to be determined was the date from which the opening should reckon.

I promised to ascertain the views of His Majesty's Government, and accordingly sent you my telegram No. 228 of the 24th ultimo. Your telegraphic reply of the 7th instant was communicated in due course to the Chinese Government, and I have the honour to inclose, for your information, copies of the letters which have been exchanged between Prince Ching and myself on the subject. As I informed you in my telegram No. 248 of yesterday, the Chinese Government accept the 1st January, 1905, as the date from which the effective opening of the trade marts should be reckoned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.



Inclosure 1 in No. 54.

*Sir J. Jordan to Prince Ching.*

Your Highness,

*Peking, December 14, 1906.*

AT an interview on the 23rd ultimo the Wai-wu Pu addressed to me an inquiry in regard to the date from which the effective opening of the trade marts mentioned in Article II of the Lhasa Convention of the 7th September, 1904, should, in the view of His Majesty's Government, be reckoned.

I communicated this inquiry by telegram to His Majesty's Government, and, as I had then the honour to state to the Wai-wu Pu verbally on the 11th instant, I am now authorized to inform the Chinese Government that the Government of India consider that the 1st January, 1905, should be regarded as the date from which the effective opening of the trade marts referred to should be reckoned.

I have the honour to request your Highness to take note of this date, and to favour me with a reply, for the information of His Majesty's Government.

I avail, &c.  
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 54.

*Wai-wu Pu to Sir J. Jordan.*

Sir

*Peking, December 20, 1906.*

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter in regard to the date of the effective opening of the Thibetan trade marts, in which you inform us that the Government of India consider that the 1st January, 1905, should be considered as the date, and request a reply, for the information of His Majesty's Government.

We have the honour to state that the Chinese Government accepts the date mentioned in your Excellency's letter as marking the effective opening of the trade marts mentioned in the Lhasa Convention, and we beg His Majesty's Government may be informed of this reply.

We avail, &c.

[4399]

No. 55.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 9, 1907.)*

(No. 545.)

Sir,

*Peking, December 26, 1906.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 222 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to inclose, for your information, copies of letters which have been exchanged between Prince Ch'ing and myself on the subject of the second instalment of the Thibetan indemnity due on the 1st January, 1907.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 55.

*Prince Ch'ing to Sir J. Jordan.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Peking, December 12, 1906.*

IN May last Mr. Carnegie informed us that the first instalment of the Thibet indemnity should be paid to the Government of India by draft in silver. The Board of Revenue thereupon remitted the amount by telegraphic transfer to Chang Ta Ch'en for payment to the Indian Government.

The second instalment, due on the 1st January, 1907, amounts to 833,333 rupees, and this Board has notified the Board of Finance that they should direct the Shanghai Taotai to hold this sum in readiness.



We have now the honour to request your Excellency to inform us, as soon as possible, in what manner this amount should be paid over, so that a telegraphic transfer may be made of the above-named sum.

We avail, &c.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 55.

*Sir J. Jordan to Prince Ch'ing.*

Your Highness,

*Peking, December 26, 1906.*

WITH reference to your Highness' letter of the 12th December on the subject of the second instalment of the Thibetan indemnity due on the 1st January, 1907, I am instructed by His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to inform you that His Majesty's Government consent to this instalment being remitted to Calcutta by telegraphic transfer.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

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[4516]

No. 56. *x (See No. 47)*

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 9.)*

Sir,

*India Office, February 6, 1907.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to invite the attention of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the telegram from the Viceroy of the 3rd instant, regarding the action which is being taken in Thibet by the local Chinese authorities.

Mr. Morley concurs with the Government of India as to the necessity of insuring the maintenance of the privileges secured to Great Britain by the Lhasa Convention of 1904 and the Peking Convention of 1906. But the principle has been recognized in the present negotiations with Russia that, provided nothing is done either by the Thibetan or Chinese authorities to impair those privileges, the British Government are precluded by the terms of the Conventions from interfering, even if they had the desire to do so, with Chinese action in Thibet or with the relations of the Lhasa Government with the Tashi Lama at Shigatse.

Mr. Morley would therefore propose, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, that His Majesty's Minister at Peking should be instructed to make representations to the Chinese Government in the sense of the recommendations (1), (2), and (4) contained in the Viceroy's telegram. But he considers that the Government of India's reply to Mr. Chang's letter should be postponed till an answer has been received from the Chinese Government to Sir J. Jordan's representations, and the exact status of the officers appointed at the trade marts by Mr. Chang has been ascertained. These officers, who are described as Chinese in the Viceroy's telegram, appear from Sir J. Jordan's telegram No. 24 of the 4th instant to have been described by Mr. Chang to the Chinese Government as Thibetans.

Mr. Morley would also postpone as unnecessary, in the circumstances so far reported, any consideration of action to be taken on recommendation No. 5 in the Viceroy's telegram. An exceedingly difficult position will be created if it should be found necessary for us to call on the Thibetan Government to fulfil the obligations of the Convention in opposition to the Chinese Government and to the Amban at Lhasa.

As regards the Government of India's recommendation No. 3 that the Trade Agent at Gyantse should be permitted to visit the Tashi Lama at Shigatse in order, by this demonstration of friendship, to give him moral support and guarantee his personal safety, Mr. Morley is strongly opposed to any policy of interfering locally between the Tashi Lama and the Lhasa Government or the Chinese authorities. To countenance a visit of this kind would be inconsistent with the opinion expressed above as to the limitations of our powers under the Conventions of 1904 and 1906; nor can Mr. Morley accept the view of the Government of India that the right of the Trade Agent to visit Shigatse—or, for that matter, Lhasa—is secured by the provision of Article II of the Lhasa Convention, which states that, in addition to establishing trade marts at Gyantse and Gartok to which British and Thibetan subjects shall have free rights of



access, the Thibetan Government undertake to place no restriction on the trade by existing routes.

Unfortunately a certain responsibility rests with the Government of India in consequence of the visit of the Tashi Lama to Calcutta in January 1906, the circumstances of which are familiar to Sir E. Grey. Mr. Morley would therefore propose that Sir J. Jordan should be instructed to represent strongly to the Chinese Government that, the Tashi Lama's visit having been a ceremonial one to meet the Prince of Wales, the results of any action against him of the nature of punishment for the visit could not be otherwise than prejudicial to the relations of His Majesty's Government with China and with the Thibetan Government.

In conclusion, I am to say that Mr. Morley trusts that the Chinese Government will recognize that, while we have no desire to interfere in any way in Thibetan affairs, we are bound to take such action as may be necessary to insure fulfilment of the provisions of the Conventions, and that it is essential to the interests of both Governments that Chinese local officers in Thibet should understand that it is their duty to give effect to those provisions in a friendly spirit and to avoid occasions of friction with British officers.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[4056]

No. 57.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 20.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, February 9, 1907.*

CHANG'S action in Thibet.

Please refer to telegram of the 3rd instant from Viceroy to the Secretary of State for India, a repetition of which was sent to you.

The desire of His Majesty's Government is to put these matters right, if possible, through the Chinese Government rather than by separate action in Thibet itself. I request, therefore, that you will bring the report of Chang's action to the notice of the Chinese Government, and that you will point out to them the incompatibility of the recognition by China of the Thibet Convention and any punishment of officials for having been concerned in the negotiation of that Convention with Great Britain. The visit of the Tashi Lama to Calcutta having been purely ceremonial in order to meet the Prince of Wales, you should strongly represent that any action against him in the nature of punishment for having paid the visit, as if he had thereby been guilty of an offence, would not be consistent with the courteous and cordial relations existing between the British and Chinese Governments.

The indemnity instalment not having yet been paid, His Majesty's Government must suspend for the present the arrangements made for the direct payment by China, and require payment to British Trade Agent through Thibetan official at Gyantse, in the manner contemplated by the actual terms of the Convention with Thibet. The Adhesion Convention was signed by His Majesty's Government in order that China should not be prejudiced by the maintenance of the Thibet Convention. The position of China as regards Thibet was, therefore, frankly recognized, and it was expected that China would use her influence to secure the due observance of the Convention between Thibet and Great Britain. It is now necessary, in view of the action taken by Chang, to have a clear understanding that China will, in fact, act in that manner.

It should also be represented to the Chinese Government that Chinese officials cannot be looked upon by His Majesty's Government as taking the place at trade marts of the Thibetan agents to be appointed there, and you should inquire what is the exact status of the officers whom Chang has appointed at the trade marts. Interference by Chinese officers with the freedom of the dealings between the British Trade Agent at Gyantse and the Thibetan Agent cannot be permitted by His Majesty's Government.

Pending the reply of the Chinese Government on these points, His Majesty's Government are not addressing any request direct to the Thibetan Government, as under the terms of the Convention they would be entitled to do. In this they are actuated by the desire to see all these matters satisfactorily adjusted in accord with the Chinese Government.



[3770]

No. 58.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

(Secret.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 9, 1907.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg\* on the subject of the proposed arrangement with Russia in regard to the prohibition of British and Russian scientific expeditions into Thibet.

In accordance with Sir A. Nicolson's suggestion, a draft note has been prepared in this Department for presentation by his Excellency to the Russian Government. It will be seen that the limits of Thibet are defined therein, not as those recognized as such by China, as has been proposed by the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, but on the lines suggested by the Viceroy of India in his telegram to Mr. Secretary Morley of the 13th July last. This course has been adopted owing to the improbability of the Chinese Government furnishing within a reasonable time a definition of what they consider to be Thibetan limits, without which the formula proposed by M. Isvolsky would, it is understood, be unacceptable to the Government of India.

Sir E. Grey will be glad to be favoured with Mr. Secretary Morley's views on the draft before it is forwarded to Sir A. Nicolson.

As regards the question of obtaining a specific stipulation against the entry of all Russian officials into Thibet, I am to inquire whether Mr. Secretary Morley concurs in Sir A. Nicolson's opinion that this point may safely be dropped in view of the guarantees offered by the Convention itself.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) E. GORST.

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Inclosure in No. 58.

*Draft Note for presentation by Sir A. Nicolson to M. Isvolsky.*

M. le Ministre,

*Foreign Office,*

, 1907.

WITH reference to the Convention signed this day respecting Thibet, I am authorized by His Britannic Majesty's Government to state that they undertake not to allow, for a period of five years from the date of this communication, the entry into Thibet of any mission organized by or composed of British subjects, designed for the purpose of scientific investigation; provided, however, that a similar undertaking is given by the Russian Government in regard to the entry into Thibet of any scientific mission organized by or composed of Russian subjects. At the expiration of five years, His Majesty's Government will consider, in consultation with the Russian Government, the advisability or otherwise of extending this prohibition for a further period.

For the purposes of the present undertaking, Thibet shall be held to include the whole of the geographical area known as Thibet lying to the south of the Kuenlun and Nanshau ranges, and extending on the north and east to tracts near Tsaidam, directly under Chinese administration, and the provinces of China proper, Upper Tsaidam, and Western Thaiji shall also be held to form part of Thibetan territory.

[4731]

No. 59.

*Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 12.)*

(No. 12.)

Sir,

*Stockholm, February 7, 1907.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of Dr. Sven Hedin's expedition through Thibet, I have the honour to report that the Swedish press announces that news has been received of his arrival on the 21st January at Ngan



Tso (?), and that he hoped to reach Shigatse by the end of February. Similar information has no doubt been reported to the Government of India, but I may mention that it is stated that the results of his latest exploration have been most fruitful, and that, entering Thibet from the north-west, he has traversed 840 English miles of unknown country, discovering many new lakes (four of which have been explored), rivers, and mountain chains hitherto unmarked on any map, and that he has struck an auriferous region, from which he is bringing back mineralogical specimens. The cold is stated to have been intense, 35° below zero C., and all his beasts of burden have succumbed, but there has been no loss of life among his personal following.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

[4785]

No. 60.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 12.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 3rd January, relative to the Chumbi Valley and Gyantse Trade Reports.

*India Office, February 11, 1907.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 60.

*Mr. Bell to the Government of India.*

*Gangtok (Kalimpong), November 26 (29), 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Trade Reports of the Assistant Political Officer and of the British Trade Agent, Gyantse, for the period ending the 30th September, 1906.

2. This is the slackest quarter of the year as regards trade. No wool is even yet passing through Gyantse. A small amount is passing through the Chumbi Valley, this having been stored at Phari during the rains.

3. Mr. Maller's visit to Gyantse, described by the British Trade Agent in his Report, was an unfortunate one. Had he applied to the British Trade Agent for information before starting, the latter could have informed him that there would be no prospect of buying carpets at Gyantse on a sufficiently large scale to be by themselves commercially profitable. The principal carpet factory in Gyantse and neighbourhood is at Gab-shi. It employs only about thirty hands, who work for three months only in the year, and in that time turn out about 100 carpets. These, too, are not made primarily for sale, but for the use of the Do-ring family, to whom the factory belongs, and who use the carpets themselves and present them to others.

4. Firms, however, dealing in miscellaneous products—as Marwaris and others—would, I think, be able to make a profit out of these carpets, as they would buy from the smaller dealers, who sell more cheaply and would buy carpets among many other articles. The Thibetan trade, as my experience at Kalimpong taught me, is profitable chiefly to those who both import and export, and this is why the Marwaris, who not only import wool, &c., but also export cotton goods, &c., find it so paying. There is a tendency for Europeans—Mr. Korb and Mr. Maller are both examples of this—to endeavour to import one commodity only, and not to export at all. I asked Mr. Korb some time ago the reason of this, and he informed me that Europeans cannot compete with Marwaris in the export of cottons and other miscellaneous goods. He further informed me that, with the prevailing system of giving advances for wool, and the number of bad debts that are caused thereby, it is difficult to carry on the trade at a profit, and his own trade certainly appears to have fallen off in recent years. The Marwaris, on the other hand, have often told me that with their system of both importing and exporting, no trade pays them so well as the Thibetan trade.

5. I have mentioned the above circumstances to show that the opening in the Thibetan trade is almost entirely for Indian traders, chiefly Marwaris, who deal in both imports and exports, and in a large variety of products. It is as well that European



firms should be told the real position of trade, in order that they may not expect good openings in single products, and, being disillusioned, give a bad name to the trade.

6. With reference to Lieutenant Bailey's remarks on tea, the "Consolidated Tea and Lands Company" of Calcutta, have replied to him that they will shortly send up a larger consignment. The placing of this on the Gyantse market will be a fairly good test as to how far the Chinese allow Indian tea to be sold in Thibet. It will bring matters to a head, which will be a good thing. I have asked Lieutenant Bailey, in the event of the tea not selling well, to find out the real reason, in order that we may have material to go on in dealing with the Chinese and Thibetans in the matter.

7. With regard to paragraph 6 of the Assistant Political Officer's Report, the Chumbi Valley ("Tro-mo-was") traders complain also that the agent of Messrs. Jettmull and Bhojraj, at Phari, encourages persons to steal wool and sell to him at a low rate; that it has always been the practice to store wool outside the house at Phari; and that thefts used not to occur till this Marwari came. Sikkimese and Nepalese come also to Phari to buy wool, but they have no complaint to make against these. I have instructed the Assistant Political Officer to investigate the complaint, as it is necessary to remove any real cause of grievance.

8. A statement of the trade passing through Gangtok via (a) Lachen Valley; (b) Nathu La, is appended below.

(A.) Trade passing via Khambajong and Lachen Valley:—

July 1906.								Rs.	a.	p.
Imports	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	0	0
Exports	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
August 1906.										
Imports	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	0	0
Exports	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
September 1906.										
Imports	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,600	0	0
Exports	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,690	0	0

(B.) Trade passing via the Nathu La:—

July 1906.										
Imports	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,270	0	0
Exports	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	541	2	0
August 1906.										
Imports	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	194	8	0
Exports	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,302	10	0
September 1906.										
Imports	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	350	15	0
Exports	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,999	8	0
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,658	11	0
Grand total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,348	11	0

Inclosure 2 in No. 60.

*Chumbi Valley Quarterly Trade Report No. 2 for the Quarter ending September 30, 1906.*

1. *General.*—A summary of the import and export trade which passed over the Nathu La during the quarter is given in Appendix (I). As there are no figures for the corresponding period of last year available, I have no remarks to offer. A comparative summary of trade passing through Yatung and over the Jelap La for the corresponding quarters of 1905 and 1906 is given, as far as the figures are available, in Appendix (II).



2. *Exports from India over the Jelap La.*—The exports from India to Thibet have fluctuated. In July 1906 there was a falling off of 47,000 rupees as compared with July 1905, but the amount of treasure increased. The decrease in exports does not appear to be due to any preventible cause. Coral and Chinese caps account for a difference of 18,000 rupees, and fluctuations appear to be mainly accounted for by the passing of small but valuable consignments. The exports for August call for no particular remark. There was an increase both in goods and in treasure. The Yatung trade returns for September have not been received up to date, and, accordingly, no remarks on the September trade over the Jelap La are possible.

3. *Imports to India over the Jelap La.*—An unusually large quantity of musk and an amount of wool quite unexpected during the rains are the principal causes of the rise in imports for July and August 1906. The price of wool was undervalued by 5 rupees per maund at Yatung (*vide* Report No. 1, paragraph 4). A correction has been made in Appendix II, the proper figures being shown in italics.

4. Temporary arrangements were made to commence the registration of passing trade on the 11th September. The Trade Registration Post is accommodated for the present in two tents on the roadside about 200 yards below the military camp. A suitable man was not immediately available, and the figures for September are, therefore, to be received with caution. The export figures have been confused by the passage of Mr. Chang's baggage without examination, and it is not improbable that other goods have been allowed to pass without record under the impression that they were the property of Mr. Chang's party.

5. *Wool.*—The wool trade appears to have opened well this season as large quantities are passing down. No information has been received so far as to the ruling price at Kalimpong.

6. *Local.*—The traders of the Chumbi Valley are once more petitioning for a return to the old monopoly system. They are anxious that Indian merchants should not be allowed to buy wool at or even visit Phari, and that the old arrangement should be restored whereby Tro-mo-was did not go below and Marwari and other Indian traders did not come above Kalimpong. The traders state that when Messrs. Jettmull and Bhojraj sent an agent to Phari last winter to buy wool the Thibetan traders went to this agent to sell their wool and that the local people were thereby the losers. At the same time it is admitted that the Marwari agent did not pay better prices than other buyers, so that the complaint of the traders is only another way of saying that they object to the presence of outsiders. The breakdown of the monopoly must necessarily press rather hardly on the Tro-mo-was for some time as they are no longer able to reap the large profits which they formerly enjoyed as the sole carriers between Phari and Kalimpong. It is to be hoped that the Marwari traders may be able to maintain their position at Phari when the Chumbi Valley is evacuated as a boycott will undoubtedly be attempted.

7. The past quarter has been uneventful so far as trade is concerned.

W. A. CAMPBELL,  
*Assistant Political Officer at Chumbi.*

#### APPENDIX (I).

*Trade passing over the Nathu La for the Quarter ending September 30, 1906.*

<i>July 1906.</i>						Rs. a. p.		
Imports to India	..	..	..	..	..	3,270	0	0
Exports from India	..	..	..	..	..	541	2	0
<i>August 1906.</i>								
Imports to India	..	..	..	..	..	194	8	0
Exports from India	..	..	..	..	..	1,302	10	0
<i>September 1906.</i>								
Imports to India	..	..	..	..	..	350	15	0
Exports from India	..	..	..	..	..	1,999	8	0

W. A. CAMPBELL,  
*Assistant Political Officer at Chumbi.*



## APPENDIX (II).

*Trade passing through Yatung and over the Jelap La for the Quarter ending September 30, 1906, as compared with the corresponding Quarter of 1905.*

				July 1905.	July 1906.
				Rs.	Rs.
Exports from India	..	..	..	91,791	44,384
Treasure from India	..	..	..	19,000	43,100
Imports to India	..	..	..	7,397	21,808
Add	..	..	..	560	..
True figure	..	..	..	7,957	..
Treasure	..	..	..	74,500	12,560

  

				August 1905.	August 1906.
				Rs.	Rs.
Exports from India	..	..	..	45,926	55,773
Treasure from India	..	..	..	2,280	12,000
Imports to India	..	..	..	13,556	26,532
Add	..	..	..	1,720	..
True figure	..	..	..	15,276	..
Treasure	..	..	..	7,700	15,600

  

				September 1905.	September 1906.
				Rs.	Rs.
Exports from India	..	..	..	68,900	..
Treasure from India	..	..	..	20,250	..
Imports to India	..	..	..	22,689	..
Add	..	..	..	5,165	..
True figure	..	..	..	27,854	..
Treasure	..	..	..	32,000	..

W. A. CAMPBELL,  
Assistant Political Officer at Chumbi.

## Inclosure 3 in No. 60.

*Quarterly Trade Report of Lieutenant Bailey, Officiating British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for the Quarter ending September 30, 1906.*

*General.*—Trade is being greatly hindered at present owing to the approaching visit of Mr. Chang. Thibetan and Chinese officials and soldiers have been passing through, and have all obtained free transport at the expense of the villagers. A large number of animals have also been sent from here to Phari to meet Mr. Chang.

*Carpets.*—On the 8th August, Mr. Maller, a partner of the firm of Messrs. Smead and Lawton of New York, arrived at Gyantse, and remained here four days. He hoped to be able to make an arrangement with the manufacturers of carpets, to secure the trade in this article for his firm. In this, however, he was unfortunately not successful. He wished to buy carpets in large quantities at cheaper rates than the manufacturers can obtain here, and pointed out to them, that by selling more carpets at a smaller profit on each individual one, their total gain would be increased. However, as there are no large manufacturers here, this means of increasing their profits did not appeal to them. A visit was paid to the carpet factory at Gab-shi, but this belongs to a rich landowner, who refused to come to any terms with Mr. Maller. Although Mr. Maller was unable to do any business here, I understand that he was more successful at Kamba Jong.

Mr. Maller was the first European trader to visit the trade mart here. He was



unfortunate in making his journey during the rainy season, when the dâk bungalows, which had been finished since last rains, were leaking badly. They have now been repaired, and I do not anticipate for future travellers discomforts of this kind. Repairs to the fireplaces of the bungalows are also being undertaken, which, when completed, will add greatly to the comfort of travellers.

A sample carpet of good quality was sent to "The Ajmere Import and Export Company," but, in this firm's opinion, the price was too high to admit of a trade being created in carpets of that quality.

*European Traders.*—Two European traders, Messrs. Righi and Kirby, of Darjeeling, though given leave to proceed to Gyantse, did not avail themselves of the permission.

*Tea.*—Six bricks of tea, sent up by "The Consolidated Tea and Lands Company" of Calcutta, were placed for sale in the bazaar here, and were readily bought at 12 tankas\* a brick. The Chinese bricks of equal quality were at that time being sold for 13 tankas. The bricks of Indian tea were slightly larger than the Chinese bricks, and this fact no doubt facilitated their sale. Some bricks of this tea have been sent to Lhasa, but I have as yet received no information regarding their sale. I have communicated with the firm regarding the sale of their brick tea, and suggested that they should send me fifty bricks to be sold here. This, I hope, will give a better idea of the willingness of Thibetans to buy the Indian tea in place of the Chinese article. It would also be seen whether the Chinese will endeavour to prevent Indian brick tea from supplanting Chinese tea in Thibet.

*Wool.*—No wool has been passing here during the period under report.

F. M. BAILEY.

[4812]

No. 61.

*India Office to Foreign Office.*—(Received February 12.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 8th February, relative to the assistance to be given to Dr. Sven Hedin in Thibet.

*India Office, February 12, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 61.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P

February 8, 1907.

THIBET. Your telegram dated the 6th February.

I agree about assistance to Sven Hedin; but orders contained in paragraph 8 of my despatch of the 15th June last, viz., that until he reaches Gyantse action by our officers is not required, still govern situation; and when Sven Hedin reaches Shigatse these orders must be scrupulously observed.

Before taking any action in the way of assistance which might possibly lead to difficulties with Chinese or Thibetan authorities, local officers must refer for orders.

[4847]

No. 62.

*India Office to Foreign Office.*—(Received February 13.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in letters from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 20th and 27th December, relative to Thibet affairs.

*India Office, February 11, 1907.*

3 tankas=1 rupee.



Inclosure 1 in No. 62.

*Mr. Bell to Government of India.*

Sir,

*Gangtok, October 11, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, with a translation, a letter received from the Chinese Assistant Resident in Thibet, addressed to his Excellency the Viceroy, intimating his arrival in Lhasa and assumption of office.

The letter was forwarded by Mr. V. C. Henderson, the Chinese Commissioner of Customs at Yatung, to the Assistant Political Officer at Chumbi, a copy of whose letter is appended.

I have, &c.  
(For Officiating Political Officer),  
(Signed) W. H. HODGES, *Superintendent.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 62.

*Lieutenant Campbell to Mr. Bell.*

Sir,

*Chumbi, October 9, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a letter, in Chinese, which I have received from Mr. V. C. Henderson, Chinese Commissioner of Customs at Yatung. Mr. Henderson asks me to express his regret at the delay in forwarding the letter, which reached him at Sedongchen about twenty days ago.

2. The letter is addressed to his Excellency the Viceroy. I have attached a translation.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. L. CAMPBELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 62.

*Lien Yu to Government of India.*

A despatch. (Seal.)

(Translation.)

LIEN, Imperial Chinese Assistant Resident in Thibet and Lieutenant-Colonel of the Banner Forces, ventures to report in this despatch that he has received an Imperial commission as Lieutenant-Colonel in the Banner Forces so that he may hold the appointment of Assistant Resident in Thibet, and that he arrived at his post on the 22nd day of the 7th month of the 32nd year of Kuang-Hsü (10th September, 1906), and accordingly reports this fact for the information of his Excellency with the prayer that his Excellency will be pleased to make note of this matter.

To his Excellency the Viceroy of India (literally, of Great Britain's Five Indias).

Dated the 26th day of the 7th month of the 32nd year of Kuang-Hsü.

The two covers are purely formal official envelopes, and call for no remark.  
The letter is carefully composed, as from an inferior to a superior.

(Signed) W. L. CAMPBELL,  
*Assistant Political Officer at Chumbi.*

*Chumbi, October 9, 1906.*



Inclosure 4 in No. 62.

*Government of India to Mr. Bell.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Viceroy's Camp, November 1, 1906.*

DO you think Viceroy should correspond direct with Assistant Amban at Lhasa as well as with Amban? New Assistant has informed Viceroy of his arrival, and the question is whether Viceroy should answer him. This was done in 1901.

Inclosure 5 in No. 62.

*Mr. Bell to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Gyantse, November 4, 1906.*

YOUR telegram of the 1st instant.

I do not think that the Viceroy should communicate direct with either Amban. Reply should be sent by me on behalf of Viceroy. Please refer to my communication dated the 24th October, which deals with this subject, and should reach Simla 5th November. If you agree to views expressed therein, please instruct me as to the terms of the reply to Assistant Amban.

Inclosure 6 in No. 62.

*Government of India to Sir J. Jordan.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Viceroy's Camp, November 15, 1906.*

A LETTER has been addressed to his Excellency the Viceroy by Assistant Amban reporting his arrival at Lhasa. Please say if the Viceroy should reply direct, or would it be more appropriate if a reply was sent through me or Political Officer, Sikkim.

Inclosure 7 in No. 62.

*Sir J. Jordan to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Peking, November 18, 1906.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 15th November, I think that reply should be sent through you to Thibetan authorities.

Inclosure 8 in No. 62.

*Government of India to Lien Yu.*

My Friend,

*Fort William, December 13, 1906.*

HIS Excellency the Viceroy has received your Excellency's letter dated the 14th September, 1906, announcing that you have received an Imperial commission as Lieutenant-Colonel in the Banner Forces, so that you may hold the appointment of Assistant Resident in Thibet, and that you assumed charge of your duties on the 10th September, 1906.

I am directed by his Excellency to congratulate your Excellency on your appointment.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

L. W. DANE,

*Secretary to Government of India, Foreign Department.*



## Inclosure 9 in No. 62.

*Government of India to Mr. Bell.*

Sir, *Fort William, December 13, 1906.*  
 I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 11th October, 1906, forwarding a letter to the address of his Excellency the Viceroy from his Excellency Lien Yu, announcing his appointment as Assistant Resident in Thibet, and his assumption of charge of his duties on the 10th September, 1906.

2. I am to forward, for transmission to his Excellency Lien Yu, a letter from Sir Louis Dane, Secretary to Government of India in the Foreign Department, a copy of which is inclosed for your information.

I have, &c.  
 (Signed) R. E. HOLLAND.

## Inclosure 10 in No. 62.

*Mr. Bell to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Gangtok, December 13, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to report that an Agent whom I sent to Lhasa has returned with the following information. My informant had interviews with the 'Ti Rompoche and the Shapés.

2. *Increase in the Thibetan Regular Army.*—The Ti Rompoche told my informant that the new Assistant Amban had told him (Ti Rompoche) and the Shapés that there were too many Thibetan monks and too few Thibetan soldiers, and that more Thibetan soldiers should be enlisted. The Ti Rompoche replied that Thibet could not afford to pay for such soldiers, to which the Assistant Amban replied that he could apply to the Chinese Government to pay them.

(It should be mentioned that the Thibetan regular troops are at present paid by the Chinese Government, *vide* Chapter VI, paragraph 14, of my "Report on the Government of Thibet.")

3. *New Consignment of Modern Rifles into Thibet.*—Several traders in Lhasa state that the new Assistant Amban has brought a large number of modern rifles with him.

4. *Mr. Chang.*—The Ti Rompoche and the Shapés told my informant that the Ambans had told them that Mr. Chang had now completed his negotiations with the Viceroy, who had told him that the 25 lakhs could be paid in three yearly instalments, after which all Indian troops would be withdrawn from Chumbi and Gyantse, and whatever else in the Convention remained for settlement would then be disposed of.

5. *Dalai Lama.*—The Ti Rompoche told my informant that he and the Shapés had recently received a letter from the Dalai Lama, in which the latter said that he had heard from the Emperor of China. The Emperor wrote that he had made a Convention with the British, and that he (the Dalai Lama) should return to Lhasa as soon as possible. The Dalai Lama consequently proposed to start on his return to Lhasa as soon as the winter ends. The Dalai Lama's Simpön Chempo (*i.e.*, superintendent of his private servants and in charge of his apartments), who is in Lhasa, has also received a letter from the Dalai Lama.

6. *Chinese Endeavours to keep British and Thibetans Apart.*—The Ti Rompoche and the Shapés told my informant that the Chinese were in constant fear lest the British and Thibetans should become good friends, which might result in the Thibetans getting rid of the Chinese authority, since in that case they would have no further need to rely on it.

(The fact that China subsidizes the Thibetan regular troops and the three leading monasteries—Sera, Drepung, and Ganden (*vide* my "Report on the Government of Thibet," Chapter VI, paragraph 14, and Chapter VII, paragraphs 9 to 12 inclusive), no doubt helps to uphold the authority of China with the Central Government at Lhasa. When recently at Tashilhunpo I found that the Tashi Lama was desirous of transferring his allegiance from China to the British Government.)



7. *The Ti Rompoche and Mr. Chang.*—The Thibetans are waiting anxiously to see what Mr. Chang will do at Lhasa. It is given out by the Chinese that he will settle all outstanding questions; but the Ti Rompoche, who has not much faith in Chinese veracity, told my informant that if Mr. Chang should not succeed in this, he (Ti Rompoche) would not be averse from discussing matters with a British official, but that he dared not say so to the Shaps or to the National Assembly (Tson-du Gyan-dzom) (see my "Report on the Government of Thibet," Chapter III, paragraphs 17 to 22 inclusive).

8. *Gyantse Rumour.*—At Gyantse there was a widespread report that the Indian troops at Gyantse will leave Gyantse on the 11th Thibetan month of this year (December-January). My informant did not hear this at Lhasa.

[4842]

No. 62\*.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 13.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 3rd January, relative to Mr. Chang's mission to Thibet.

*India Office, February 11, 1907.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 62\*.

*Captain O'Connor to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*December 22, 1906.*

HENDERSON tells me Chang has been appointed as Junior Amban, Yutai, returning China. It is said that Chang objects to appointment, and that he wishes to refuse it. Addressed to Bell, and repeated to Foreign.

Inclosure 2 in No. 62\*.

*Captain O'Connor to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*December 28, 1906.*

THE appointment of Chang as Assistant Amban has been cancelled. For some months longer he remains in Thibet on special mission as before. Addressed to the Political Officer, Sikkim, and repeated to Foreign.

[5033]

No. 63.

*India Office to Foreign Office.*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 14th instant, regarding the appointment of officials to the trade marts in Thibet.

*India Office, February 14, 1907.*



## Inclosure in No. 63.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

February 14, 1907.

THIBET. Telegram, dated 4th instant, from His Majesty's Minister at Peking to Foreign Office, in which statement by Chang was quoted to the effect that appointment of five Thibetans at three trade marts had been notified to us in writing. Please refer to my telegram dated the 3rd instant. Appointment of eight officers at trade marts as Chinese Commercial and Diplomatic Representatives was notified in Chang's letter of 17th ultimo to Secretary in Foreign Department. We have consulted British Trade Agent at Gyantse, who reports that all officials named by Chang are Chinese, and none Thibetans. Under Article V of Lhasa Convention Thibetan Agents are to be appointed by Thibetan Government, and we do not in any case consider that requirements of this Article would be satisfied by nomination of Thibetan officials by Chang as Chinese Commercial and Diplomatic Agents.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[5237]

No. 64.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 18.)*

(No. 83.)

St. Petersburg, February 12, 1907.

Sir,

I CALLED on M. Isvolsky to-day and handed to him the draft Convention concerning Thibet, which I have the honour to inclose a copy. I told his Excellency that the wording of the preamble had been slightly altered from that which he had communicated to me, but that he would see that Articles I and II were in accordance with his suggestions. His Excellency read through the Convention, and said that at first sight he saw nothing to which objection could be taken, but that he would have to submit it to the Inter-Departmental Committee which was to hold a sitting the day after to-morrow.

M. Isvolsky said that there was one point which he would like to mention to me, and in doing so he trusted that I would not consider that he was seeking to raise any difficulties or create complications. But it was possible that in the future Russian trade with Thibet might develop, and he wondered whether it would be necessary to come to some understanding in regard to trade routes, marts, &c.

I said that it did not seem likely that there could be any direct trade between Russian possessions and Thibet, as the Russian frontier was so many miles distant, and the whole of Mongolia intervened. So far as I knew, there was only one caravan route to Thibet from the north, and that passed through Chinese territory. I did not therefore see that the case he mentioned was likely to occur. His Excellency said that he did not allude to direct Russian trade, but to Russian goods passing through Chinese territory to Thibet, and which possibly hereafter might be accompanied by Russian merchants. I told him that these were questions of no immediate moment, and would naturally have to be discussed with the Chinese Government and ourselves should they ever arise. In any case they could not be mentioned in a Convention between our two Governments, and if it were found that Russian goods were finding a market in Thibet, I presumed that the Chinese Government would regulate, if necessary, their transit duties, &c. M. Isvolsky observed that perhaps Russian merchants might some day wish to be enabled to have some relations with Thibetan local, not central, authorities. I observed that all that he said to me related to matters which, to my mind, could only arise in a distant future, but that I should repeat his remarks to you.

I venture to submit that, unless M. Isvolsky recurs again to the matter, the question should not be revived by me; and if he does recur to it, that I should ask him to be good enough to give me in writing a statement of his views and wishes. I do not think that he has any intention of suggesting an insertion in the Convention of a clause referring to a possible future development of Russian trade with Thibet. Were he to do so, I propose to tell him decidedly that we could not admit it.

M. Isvolsky said that he had seen in a journal that some towns were to be opened to general trade in Thibet and a railway constructed. I remarked that I had seen nothing on the subject, and that possibly the "towns" were Gartok, Gyantse, and Yatung, which were the trade marts opened by the Convention to trade from India. As



to the railway, perhaps he would recollect that I had already made inquiries in regard to the rumour, and had been enabled to inform him that, so far as His Majesty's Government were aware, there was no truth in it.

At the conclusion of my interview I said to M. Isvolsky that we were making, I was glad to observe, some progress. We had agreed, I trusted, on a draft Convention in respect to Thibet, and I had given him a draft Convention for Persia which only required the filling in of a few *lacunæ* by the Russian Government. This doubtless would soon be accomplished, and I began to see the end of our discussions in view. M. Isvolsky said he felt also we were advancing, and he would speak to me more fully when the Committee had terminated its work.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

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Inclosure in No. 64.

*Draft Convention communicated by Sir A. Nicolson to M. Isvolsky.*

IN view of the special interest which, by reason of her geographical position Great Britain has in the external relations of Thibet, and in view of the desire of Great Britain and Russia to arrive at an understanding on the subject, the following five Articles have been agreed upon by the two High Contracting Parties:—

#### ARTICLE I.

The two High Contracting Parties engage to respect the territorial integrity of Thibet, and to abstain from all interference in its internal administration.

#### ARTICLE II.

In conformity with the principle of the suzerainty of China over Thibet, Great Britain and Russia engage not to treat with Thibet except through the intermediary of the Chinese Government. This engagement does not, however, exclude the relations of British commercial agents with the Thibetan authorities, as provided for by Article V of the Convention of the 7th September, 1904, between Great Britain and Thibet, and confirmed by the Convention of the 27th April, 1906, between Great Britain and China, nor does it modify the engagements undertaken by Great Britain and China in virtue of Article I of the said Convention of 1906.

It is understood that both British and Russian Buddhists may enter into relations of a strictly religious character with the Dalai Lama and the other representatives of Buddhism in Thibet. The Governments of Great Britain and Russia engage not to allow, so far as lies in their power, these relations to infringe the provisions of the present Agreement.

#### ARTICLE III.

The British and Russian Governments severally engage not to send a Representative to Lhasa.

#### ARTICLE IV.

The two High Contracting Parties agree not to seek or obtain, whether for themselves or their subjects, any Concessions for railways, roads, telegraphs, mining or other rights in Thibet.

#### ARTICLE V.

The British and Russian Governments agree that no Thibetan revenues, whether in kind or in cash, shall be pledged or assigned to them or any of their subjects.



[5216]

No. 65.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 18.)*

(No. 31.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Peking, February 16, 1907.*

THIBET.

Please refer to my telegram No. 17 of the 21st ultimo.

The President of the Board concerned, to whom his Excellency Tong Shoa-yi applied, could supply no precise information, and stated that there was no map of Thibet later than the eighteenth century in the possession of the Chinese Government.

It is impossible, in my opinion, to ascertain the boundaries by inquiring privately in Peking, and if we ask the Wai-wu Pu officially, some time must elapse before the local authorities can furnish the necessary information.

(The above has been repeated to the Government of India.)

[5696]

No. 66.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 20.)*

Sir,

*India Office, February 20, 1907.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 9th February on the subject of the proposed Agreement with Russia respecting Thibet.

With regard to the draft note, Mr. Morley observes that it is not proposed to adopt Sir A. Nicolson's suggestion to embody in it an undertaking by the two Governments to request the Chinese Government to prohibit, during the currency of the Anglo-Russian Agreement embodied in the note, any scientific expeditions of any nationality from entering Thibet from the north, or, it may be added, from the east.

Mr. Morley is not aware of the reasons which have led Sir E. Grey to drop this suggestion. Subject to Sir E. Grey's opinion, it appears to him that there are reasons in favour of some such arrangement as that proposed by Sir A. Nicolson. If carried into effect, it would do away with the anomalous position which the proposed Agreement would create for Great Britain and Russia in this matter as compared with other nations.

Subject to these observations, Mr. Morley concurs in the terms of the draft note.

With regard to the question of obtaining a specific stipulation against the entry of all Russian officials into Thibet, Mr. Morley concurs in Sir A. Nicolson's view that the object sought to be obtained is sufficiently provided for in the terms of the Convention as at present drafted and approved by His Majesty's Government.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

[5763]

No. 67.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 20.)*

(No. 30.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*St. Petersburg, February 20, 1907.*

THE Russian Government accept our draft of the Thibet Convention, and have furnished me with a French translation of our text. They state they do not consider the question as having reached a final settlement until they are in possession of the views of His Majesty's Government as to Chumbi Valley occupation and scientific missions.

I have to-day handed Minister for Foreign Affairs a draft declaration as to the former.



[5696]

No. 68.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 71.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 20, 1907.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 60 of the 30th ultimo on the subject of the proposed Arrangement with Russia in regard to the prohibition of British and Russian scientific expeditions into Thibet.

I now transmit to you the text of a draft note which has been prepared in this Department, after consultation with the Secretary of State for India, with a view to presentation to the Russian Government, provided the latter agree to address an identic note, *mutatis mutandis*, to your Excellency. Copies of the correspondence which has passed with the India Office is inclosed for your information.\*

With regard to the question of obtaining a specific stipulation against the entry of all Russian officials into Thibet, His Majesty's Government concur in your Excellency's opinion that this point need not be proceeded with in view of the guarantees offered by the Convention itself.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

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Inclosure in No. 68.

*Draft Note for communication to the Russian Government by Sir A. Nicolson.*

M. le Ministre,

*February , 1907.*

WITH reference to the Convention signed this day respecting Thibet, I am authorized by His Britannic Majesty's Government to state that they undertake not to allow, for a period of five years from the date of this communication, the entry into Thibet of any mission organized by, or composed of, British subjects, designed for the purpose of scientific investigation, provided, however, that a similar undertaking is given by the Russian Government in regard to the entry into Thibet of any scientific mission organized by, or composed of, Russian subjects. His Majesty's Government further undertake to request the Chinese Government to prohibit, for the same period, so far as lies in their power, any scientific expeditions of any foreign nationality from entering Thibet from the north and east, on the understanding that similar action is taken by the Russian Government. At the expiration of five years His Majesty's Government will consider, in consultation with the Russian Government, the advisability, or otherwise, of extending this prohibition for a further period.

For the purposes of the present undertaking, Thibet shall be held to include the whole of the geographical area known as Thibet lying to the south of the Kurulun and Naushan ranges, and extending on the north and east to tracts near Tsaidam directly under Chinese administration and the provinces of China proper. Upper Tsaidam and Western Thaiji shall also be held to form part of Thibetan territory.

I have, &amp;c.

[5791]

No. 69.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 21.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 19th February, relative to the affairs of Thibet.

*India Office, February 20, 1907.*


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\* Nos. 58 and 66.



Inclosure in No. 69.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, February 19, 1907.*

YOUR telegram dated the 3rd instant. Thibet.

Necessity of insuring maintenance of privileges which Lhasa and Peking Conventions secured to Great Britain is concurred in by His Majesty's Government. In present negotiations with Russia, however, principle has been recognized that, even if they desired to do so, terms of Conventions preclude His Majesty's Government from interfering with Lhasa Government's relations with Tashi Lama, or with Chinese action in Thibet, provided neither Chinese nor Thibetan authorities do anything to impair the privileges in question.

In respect of third recommendation in your telegram, no policy of interference between Tashi Lama and Chinese authorities or Lhasa Government can be sanctioned by His Majesty's Government. Visits of Trade Agent to Shigatse for purpose of giving moral support to Tashi Lama against Lhasa or Peking would be inconsistent with principle above stated, and I do not consider that right to pay such visit can be held to be secured by Article II of the 1904 Convention.

Sir J. Jordan was instructed on the 9th February to the following effect:—

"With reference to the telegram dated the 3rd instant dispatched to His Majesty's Government, and repeated to you by the Viceroy of India, it is our desire that these matters should, if possible, be put right, not by separate action in Thibet, but through the medium of the Chinese Government. Report of Chang's action should therefore be brought by you to the attention of the Chinese Government, and it should be pointed out to them that recognition by China of 1904 Convention is not consistent with punishment of officials for being concerned in negotiation of that Convention. It should also be strongly represented to them that it would be incompatible with the courteous and cordial relations between China and His Majesty's Government for them to take any action against the Tashi Lama which punished him for his visit to Calcutta as if it had been an offence, seeing that the visit in question was a purely ceremonial one to meet His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

"No payment of instalment of indemnity having yet been made, His Majesty's Government are compelled to suspend for the present arrangements for its direct payment by China, and, as the actual terms of the Convention provide, must require payment to Trade Agent by Thibetan official at Gyantse. The object of His Majesty's Government in entering into the Adhesion Agreement of 1906 was to prevent China being prejudiced by the maintenance of the Lhasa Convention. Accordingly, in the expectation that China would use her influence to secure due observance of the Convention between Thibet and Great Britain, they accorded frank recognition to China's position in regard to Thibet. The action of Mr. Chang renders it necessary to have a clear understanding that our expectations will be fulfilled.

"You should also inquire what is the exact status of the officers whom Mr. Chang has appointed at the trade marts, and should represent that Chinese officials cannot be regarded by us as taking the place of Thibetan Agents who were to be appointed there. Interference by Chinese officers with the freedom of the dealings between Thibetan Agent and British Trade Agent at Gyantse cannot be permitted by His Majesty's Government.

"The Convention would entitle His Majesty's Government to address a request direct to the Thibetan Government, but, pending the reply of the Chinese Government, they are not doing so, as they would prefer to see all these matters satisfactorily adjusted in accord with China."

Pending receipt of Chinese reply to Jordan's representations and ascertainment of exact status of officers whom Mr. Chang has appointed at marts, reply to Mr. Chang's letter must be deferred.

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[5696]

No. 70.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 23.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, February 21, 1907.*

NEGOTIATIONS respecting Thibet.

Please refer to your despatch No. 60 of the 30th January.

I agree that in view of the guarantees afforded by the Convention itself, it is unnecessary to obtain a specific stipulation against the entry of all Russian officials into Thibet.

The terms of the draft note which you should address to M. Isvolsky are as follows:—

“With reference to the Convention signed this day respecting Thibet, I am authorized by His Britannic Majesty's Government to state that they undertake not to allow, for a period of five years from the date of this communication, the entry into Thibet of any mission organized by, or composed of, British subjects, designed for the purpose of scientific investigation, provided, however, that a similar undertaking is given by the Russian Government in regard to the entry into Thibet of any scientific mission organized by, or composed of, Russian subjects. His Majesty's Government further undertake to request the Chinese Government to prohibit, for the same period, so far as lies in their power, any scientific expeditions of any foreign nationality from entering Thibet from the north and east, on the understanding that similar action is taken by the Russian Government. At the expiration of five years His Majesty's Government will consider, in consultation with the Russian Government, the advisability or otherwise of extending this prohibition for a further period.

“For the purposes of the present undertaking, Thibet shall be held to include the whole of the geographical area known as Thibet lying to the south of the Kuenlun and Nanshan ranges, and extending on the north and east to tracts near Tsaidam directly under Chinese administration and the provinces of China proper; Upper Tsaidam and Western Thaiji shall also be held to form part of Thibetan territory.”

[6016]

No. 71.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 23.)*

(No. 7.)

Sir,

*Peking, January 5, 1907.*

ON the receipt of your telegram No. 227 of the 28th December last respecting the proceedings of the Chinese official stationed at Gyantse, I prepared a Memorandum embodying a statement of the facts and of the views you had expressed thereon, and instructed Mr. Campbell, the Chinese Secretary to His Majesty's Legation, to lay it before the Ministers of the Wai-wu Pu and invite their serious attention to the matter.

Mr. Campbell handed this document, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, to the Wai-wu Pu on the 1st instant, and was informed that they had absolutely no knowledge of the circumstances to which it referred, but that they would lose no time in telegraphing to Chang Ta-jen for an explanation.

A little later on that day I had the honour to receive your telegram No. 228 of the 31st December, in which you instructed me to call the attention of the Chinese Government to Mr. Chang's action in altering the date for the opening of the trade marts, and pointed out that this act would entitle His Majesty's Government to prolong the occupation of the Chambi Valley and might lead to embarrassment which would be as inconvenient to others as to us.

At an interview which I had at the Wai-wu Pu yesterday I communicated the substance of your telegram to the Ministers present, their Excellencies the Grand Secretary Ch'u Hung-ch'i and Tong Shao-yi, and dwelt at some length upon the proceedings of Mr. Chang and his subordinate at Gyantse. I said that His Majesty's Government and the Government of India had shown much consideration to China both in fixing the date of the opening of the trade marts and in consenting to the direct payment of the indemnity, and I remarked that the obstructive attitude of the Chinese officials on the spot was calculated to lead to a modification of policy in relation to Thibet and to impair the smooth working of the recent Agreements.

[1722]

Z



Their Excellencies expressed great surprise at Chang's action in taking it upon himself to fix a date for the opening of the trade mart at Gyantse, and said they could scarcely credit the report. Both before and after the 14th November they had received numerous telegrams from him urging them to enter into negotiations for having the date formally fixed, and they found it hard to believe that these messages were sent in bad faith. They would, however, telegraph to him at once for an explanation, and if it was found that he had made any announcement of the kind he would be called upon to rectify it.

They made some inquiries as to the form in which the announcement had been made and to whom it had been addressed, and, as I stated in my telegram No. 3 of to-day's date, it would be useful if I could be furnished with further information on this point.

I have forwarded a copy of this despatch to his Excellency the Viceroy of India.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure in No. 71.

*Memorandum communicated by Sir J. Jordan to the Wai-wu Pu.*

SIR JOHN JORDAN has received a telegram from the Government of India stating that a Chinese official, whom his Excellency Chang Yin-t'ang has appointed at Gyantse, with the rank of Sub-Prefect and title of "Chinese Commissioner in charge of the Chinese Trade and Diplomatic Agency," claims the right of acting as intermediary in all transactions between British officers and Thibetans, and has threatened to stop Thibetans from furnishing supplies to the British Trade Agent unless they are paid for at prices fixed upon by him.

Sir John Jordan is instructed to invite the attention of the Chinese Government to these proceedings. Under Article V of the Lhasa Convention of the 7th September, 1904, British officers are entitled to communicate directly with Thibetan authorities, and under Article 2 of the Trade Regulations of 1893, which at present applies to trade marts, British subjects are at liberty "to sell their goods to whomsoever they please, to purchase native commodities in kind or in money, to hire transport of any kind, and in general to conduct their business transactions in conformity with local usage, and without any vexatious restrictions." The Chinese Government must be aware that His Majesty's Government have waived a point by consenting to the payment of the instalment of indemnity due to-day directly instead of through Thibet, and Sir John Jordan is desired to impress upon the Chinese Government that the whole question of British intercourse with Thibet will be affected unless the Chinese Government in their turn give proof of their desire to settle matters amicably, by issuing suitable instructions to their Agents in that country, and by seeing that those instructions are carried out in a reasonable manner.

*Peking, January 1, 1907.*

[6144]

No. 72.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 23.)*

Sir,

*India Office, February 22, 1907.*

IN reply to Sir Eric Barrington's letter of the 19th instant, on the subject of the proposed Anglo-Russian Agreement respecting Thibet, I am directed to express Mr. Secretary Morley's concurrence in Sir E. Grey's proposal to approve Sir A. Nicolson's language to M. Isvolsky regarding the question of an understanding respecting the status of Russian traders in Thibet; and also his Excellency's suggestion that he should not refer again to the matter, unless M. Isvolsky recurs to it, in which case he should request to be furnished with a written statement of M. Isvolsky's views.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.



[6165]

No. 73.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 23.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 23rd February, relative to the payment of the Thibet Indemnity.

*India Office, February 23, 1907.*

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Inclosure in No. 73.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*February 23, 1907.*

YOUR telegram dated the 19th instant: Thibet Indemnity.

Please refer to instructions sent on the 9th instant to His Majesty's Minister at Peking that payment of instalment through Thibetan official at Gyantse would be required, and that he should inform Chinese Government accordingly. We beg to report that, on the 18th instant, Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank paid cheque for amount of instalment to Comptroller-General, Calcutta, and that sum was credited to Government on 19th instant in default of definite instructions cancelling former order. Comptroller of Indian Treasuries sent Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank formal acknowledgment of receipt of cheque.

[6175]

No. 74.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 23.)*

(No. 33.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*St. Petersburg, February 23, 1907.*

THIBETAN Agreement.

I communicated to-day to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the draft note in the terms telegraphed in your telegram No. 23 of the 21st instant, respecting scientific expeditions into Thibet. His Excellency said that he wished frankly to tell me that, although he was personally in agreement with our view as to the inadvisability of expeditions of such a nature proceeding to Thibet for the present, he feared much opposition would be aroused here, and that if the prohibition were announced in such a formal manner he would be severely attacked.

He was in a position and would be prepared to prevent such missions from being organized, but this was different from making their prohibition the subject of a public announcement. I left the papers with him after some conversation, and he promised to look into the matter carefully and see whether we could not attain the same object by some other means than proposed by us.

[6290]

No. 75.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 25.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 24th instant, regarding Dr. Sven Hedin's journeyings in Thibet.

*India Office, February 25, 1907.*

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Inclosure in No. 75.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

February 24, 1907.

THIBET. We repeat for information following telegram from Trade Agent, Gyantse, dated the 21st instant :—

“Letter received yesterday evening from Sven Hedin states that letter has reached him from Gow, in which he is curtly ordered to return, by the way he has come, from Shigatse. Sven Hedin asks me if I can assist him ; he thinks he could easily enough come to Gyantse, but is afraid he might not be able to resume journey here. In reply, I have expressed regret that I cannot help him in any way, and have said it rests entirely with him to decide whether or not to come to Gyantse, although I shall be pleased to welcome him here.”

We were instructed by you, in despatch of the 15th June, 1906, to authorize our officers to render Sven Hedin reasonable facilities for his return through British India in the event of his reaching frontier via Gyantse. We gather that such action might be taken on Sven Hedin's arrival at Gyantse, from your telegram of the 8th instant on the same subject. In your telegram of the 19th instant, however, we have been informed that, in matters unconnected with our privileges under the Conventions of 1904 and 1906, we are precluded from interfering with Chinese action in Thibet, owing to position adopted in negotiations with Russia. We therefore desire to know, with reference to the final sentence of your telegram of the 8th instant, what instructions should be sent to O'Connor if orders from Gow to return by the way he came are received by Sven Hedin after arrival at Gyantse.

As it is possible that it might be considered necessary to make representations at Peking, we would in that case suggest that removal of Gow should be proposed, and the appointment of a more conciliatory officer. Our own view is that, in the circumstances, O'Connor should simply secure safe journey to India to Sven Hedin, and that incident should not be invested with undue prominence.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[6144]

No. 76.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 28.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, February 25, 1907.

THIBET Agreement.

Your despatch No. 83 of the 12th January.

Your language to M. Isvolsky regarding the question of an understanding respecting the status of Russian merchants trading in Thibet is approved.

I agree to your proposal not to advert to the matter unless M. Isvolsky revives it. In the event of his doing so, your proposal to request him to supply you with his views in writing is agreed to.

[6335]

No. 77.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 26.)*

(No. 97.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, February 19, 1907.

M. ISVOLSKY asked me to call upon him yesterday evening, and I found Count Benckendorff also present. M. Isvolsky said that he had examined the draft Convention in regard to Thibet which I had left with him a few days previously, and a copy of which I transmitted in my despatch No. 83 of the 12th instant, and that he did not consider that any exception could be taken to it, and that in his opinion it could be accepted. He reminded me at the same time that there were two questions in regard to which he was awaiting some communication from me, and they were the position to be assumed towards scientific missions, and also the Chumbi Valley occupation.



I told his Excellency that in regard to the first question I was awaiting a draft note which was being drawn up in London, and which I would communicate to him when I received it. He asked if His Majesty's Government still insisted that an interdict should be placed on scientific missions. I said that I should rather term it a suspension during a limited period—say, for five years. He had, perhaps, observed that Mr. Morley had quite recently stated in the House of Commons that His Majesty's Government considered it desirable to maintain the prohibition against scientific missions proceeding from India.

In reply to further inquiries from M. Isvolsky, I said that I had laid before you, as faithfully and as fully as I could, his views on the matter. I had explained the difficulties which the Russian Government felt in interfering with expeditions organized and starting from localities outside their jurisdiction, and also that he would be embarrassed in justifying before the Russian Geographical Society the prohibition against Russian expeditions while missions of other nationalities were under no similar restrictions. This latter point was to my mind worthy of consideration, and I had suggested that possibly the Chinese Government might be approached on the subject. I said that I hoped to receive the draft note shortly, and that then I should be in possession of the views of my Government.

In regard to the Chumbi Valley occupation, I said that I had submitted to you a draft declaration to form an annexe to the Thibetan Convention, and I was not at present in a position to say whether it had met with your approval. M. Isvolsky inquired what was the nature of the declaration. I told him that it was practically identical with that made by the Viceroy of India, which was attached to the ratification of the British Convention with Thibet of 1904. Both the above questions, I observed, should not be embodied in the Convention, and I thought that he was in accord with this view. M. Isvolsky did not dissent from my statement.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[6338]

No. 78.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 26.)*

(No. 100.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, February 20, 1907.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a *pro-memorid* which I have received from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, announcing that the Russian Government accept the draft Convention concerning Thibet, as communicated by me on the 1st (14th) instant, and inclosing a French translation of the English text which I had handed in. The two texts appear to be in conformity one with another.

The Russian Government state at the same time that they do not consider the question finally settled until they are in possession of the views of His Majesty's Government in regard to the duration of the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley, and also in respect to the permission to be accorded Russian scientific expeditions to travel in Thibet.

I handed to M. Isvolsky this afternoon a copy of the declaration in regard to the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley, the draft of which I had the honour to transmit to you in my despatch No. 35 of the 16th ultimo, and which might form an annex to the Thibetan Convention. His Excellency read it over, and said that he would give me a reply later.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 78.

*Pro-memorid communicated by M. Isvolsky to Sir A. Nicolson.*

LE Gouvernement Impérial de Russie serait prêt à accepter l'accord avec le Gouvernement Britannique sur la question Thibétaine dans les termes du projet remis par son Excellence Sir Arthur Nicolson le 1<sup>er</sup> (14) Février courant dont un texte Français se trouve ci-joint.

[1722]

2 A



Toutefois, avant de considérer la présente question comme définitivement réglée, le Gouvernement Impérial tiendrait à connaître les vues du Gouvernement Britannique sur la durée de l'occupation de la vallée de Chumbi (*pro-memoriâ* du 25 Septembre, 1906) ainsi que sur l'autorisation aux explorateurs et savants Russes de voyager en territoire Thibétain dans des buts exclusivement scientifiques.

Le 6 (19) Février, 1907.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 78.

*Draft Convention respecting Thibet.*

EN raison de l'intérêt spécial que, par suite de sa situation géographique, la Grande-Bretagne a dans les relations extérieures du Thibet et en vue du désir de la Grande-Bretagne et de la Russie d'arriver à un accord à ce sujet, les deux Hautes Parties Contractantes sont convenues des Articles suivants :—

ARTICLE I.

Les Hautes Parties Contractantes s'engagent à respecter l'intégrité territoriale du Thibet et à s'abstenir de toute ingérence dans son administration intérieure.

ARTICLE II.

Se conformant au principe de la suzeraineté de la Chine sur le Thibet, la Russie et la Grande-Bretagne s'engagent à ne traiter avec le Thibet que par l'entremise du Gouvernement Chinois. Cet engagement n'exclut pas, toutefois, les rapports des agents commerciaux Anglais avec les autorités Thibétaines prévus par l'Article V de la Convention du 7 Septembre, 1904, entre la Grande-Bretagne et le Thibet et confirmés par la Convention du 27 Avril, 1906, entre la Grande-Bretagne et la Chine ; il ne modifie pas non plus les engagements assumés par la Grande-Bretagne et la Chine en vertu de l'Article I de la dite Convention de 1906.

Il est bien entendu que les Bouddhistes tant sujets Russes que Britanniques peuvent entrer en relations directes sur le terrain strictement religieux avec le Dalai Lama et les autres représentants du Bouddhisme au Thibet ; les Gouvernements de Russie et de la Grande-Bretagne s'engagent pour autant qu'il dépendra d'eux à ne pas admettre que ces relations puissent porter atteinte aux stipulations du présent accord.

ARTICLE III.

Les Gouvernements Britannique et Russe s'engagent chacun pour sa part à ne pas envoyer de Représentants à Lhassa.

ARTICLE IV.

Les deux Hautes Parties s'engagent à ne rechercher ou obtenir, ni pour leur propre compte, ni en faveur de leurs sujets, aucunes concessions de chemin de fer, routes, télégraphes, et mines, ou autres droits au Thibet.

ARTICLE V.

Les deux Gouvernements sont d'accord qu'aucune partie des revenus du Thibet, soit en nature, soit en espèces, ne peut être engagée ou assignée tant à la Russie et à la Grande-Bretagne qu'à leurs sujets.

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[6474]

No. 79.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 26.)*

Sir,

*India Office, February 26, 1907.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to inclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram from the Government of India relating to Dr. Sven Hedin's journey in Thibet,\* and also copy of a telegram received by the Prime Minister from Dr. Sven Hedin.

Mr. Morley proposes, subject to Sir E. Grey's concurrence, to approve the terms of Captain O'Connor's reply to Dr. Sven Hedin, and to indorse the view of the Government of India that, in the event of Dr. Hedin reaching Gyantse, the assistance to be given him should be confined to facilitating his return to India, notwithstanding any order from Mr. Gow.

The Government of India being in no way responsible for Dr. Sven Hedin entering Thibet from Chinese territory, Mr. Morley does not consider it expedient that the Trade Agent at Gyantse should move officially in the matter until Dr. Hedin reaches that place. Mr. Morley would, however, authorize Captain O'Connor to inform Dr. Hedin unofficially of the instructions issued by His Majesty's Government.

I am to suggest that His Majesty's Minister at Peking should be instructed to explain the circumstances to the Chinese Government, and to inform them of the instructions given to the British Trade Agent at Gyantse, and perhaps further to mention the unconciliatory attitude of Mr. Gow.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

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Inclosure in No. 79.

*Dr. Sven Hedin to Sir C. Campbell-Bannerman.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Shigatse, February 22, 1907.*

SINCE last year my situation is changed, I am in Shigatse now, received with immense hospitality by Tashi Lama and all Thibetans. Only Chinese authorities make difficulties, pretending to be afraid of British. I herewith take the liberty to ask your Excellency's Government's recommendation to Tsung-li Yamên or Mr. Gow at Gyantse, as I must have free hand. One word from you should clear up my situation and make whole journey easier. It could be regarded as a perfectly private introduction, as I have entered heart of Thibet without any assistance.

[6474]

No. 80.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 22.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, February 26, 1907.*

SVEN HEDIN.

With reference to Viceroy of India's telegram of the 24th instant.

Terms of O'Connor's reply have been approved by the Secretary of State for India who has also indorsed the view of the Government of India that the assistance to be given to Sven Hedin, should he reach Gyantse, should be confined to facilitating his return to India, in spite of any order which Gow may give.

You should inform the Chinese Government of the instructions to O'Connor, and, in explaining the matter to them, draw their attention to the unconciliatory attitude adopted by Gow.



[6572]

No. 81.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 28.)*

(No. 34.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Peking, February 27, 1907.*

PLEASE refer to your telegram No. 20 of the 9th instant on the subject of Thibet.

On the 19th instant I submitted to the Wai-wu Pu a Memorandum embodying the substance of your instructions.

To-day I have received a written reply from them to the following effect :—

1. An Imperial Decree was issued, calling upon Chang to investigate the charges against the officers of the Government. Of these, Yu Tai has been found guilty of corruption, while punishment for acts of corruption has been incurred by his Secretary the Thibetan officials, and others. Pending judgment, they are all under surveillance though as yet none of them have been punished for complicity in Treaty negotiations either by imprisonment or otherwise.

2. The visit of the Tashi Lama to India was one of ceremony, and there is no intention of punishing him for it. The Lama has expressed warm thanks to Chang who defrayed the expenses of the visit, for the attentions paid to him at Darjeeling during his illness.

Courteous relations should be maintained with the British and Thibetan officials by the Chinese officials appointed by Chang. The sole purpose of their appointment is the carrying out of the opening of the trade marts in accordance with Treaty. The general tenour of the instructions issued to Chang has been based on the Treaty engagement binding the Chinese to secure that the trade marts shall be duly opened. Owing to the condensed language of telegrams some misunderstanding has arisen; the Wai-wu Pu will, however, issue further instructions to insure that full effect is given, by means of amicable consultation with the British authorities, to all the terms of the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1906.

The Wai-wu Pu's note concludes with the hope that, as the result of these instructions, relations will be more cordial.

(I have repeated the above to the Viceroy of India.)

[6474]

No. 82.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

(Secret.)

*Foreign Office, February 28, 1907.*

Sir,

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to inform you that the recent incidents in connection with Dr. Sven Hedin's journey in Thibet have again directed his attention to certain aspects of the question of the prohibition of Scientific Missions into that country, and have suggested to him the following considerations in connection with the present negotiations with Russia :—

It appears to Sir E. Grey that Dr. Sven Hedin's success in reaching Gyantse points to the ineffectiveness of the prohibition enforced at present by the Government of India against the entry of foreigners into Thibet, and attention is invited, at the same time, to the disagreeable and churlish position in which British Agents in Thibet are placed towards members of expeditions which have genuinely and purely scientific objects in view.

The recent communications which have passed with the Russian Government seem to show that the latter's reluctance to agree to the inclusion of a prohibitory provision in the proposed Agreement is largely inspired by similar considerations, and, as regards the probability of prohibition by the Russian or other Governments being more effective than that of the Government of India, I am to point out that if Russian or other nationals should wish to dispatch Scientific Missions into Thibet, it would be impossible to prevent their effecting their purpose in the disguise of pilgrims.

To turn to a more general aspect of the question, I am to say that, in Sir E. Grey's opinion, when an Agreement is being negotiated between two countries on broad lines, it is a mistaken policy to exaggerate the importance of possible future eventualities, which can best be avoided by the maintenance of good and friendly relations.



In these circumstances, Sir E. Grey is disposed to doubt whether any good purpose would be served by proceeding with the negotiations for making special provision for the exclusion of Scientific Missions from Thibet in the proposed Anglo-Russian Agreement, and I am to inquire whether, if the Secretary of State for India concurs, steps can be taken to obtain from the Government of India the withdrawal of the prohibition issued by them, which, if continued without being balanced by corresponding prohibitions by the Governments of other countries in the vicinity of Thibet, would place India at a disadvantage compared with those countries as a starting-place for scientific expeditions into Thibet. It would, of course, be understood, in the case of the prohibition being withdrawn, that members of Scientific Missions would enter Thibet at their own risk and peril, and that, in the event of their incurring serious danger or difficulties, they would not be entitled to expect any intervention on their behalf by the British or Russian Governments.

If the Secretary of State for India concurs with these views, Sir Edward Grey would consider it desirable that the Russian Government should be asked to make a formal declaration in the above sense.

In view of the fact that negotiations on this subject are now in progress, I am to request that Sir Edward Grey may be favoured with a reply to this letter at your earliest convenience.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[6785]

No. 83.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 1.)*

(No. 35.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, March 1, 1907.

THIBET: Please refer to your telegram No. 22 on the subject of Sven Hedin.

I have furnished the Wai-wu Pu with an explanation of the circumstances, and communicated to them O'Connor's instructions, commenting at the same time on the attitude of Gow.

The reply of the Wai-wu Pu is that they had received a telegram from Chang, in consequence of which they sent instructions to the Chinese Minister in London some eight or ten days ago to see you about the question; Wang Tajen had countersigned the passport to travel issued to Sven Hedin by the Foreign Office.

The above has been repeated to the Viceroy of India.

[6968]

No. 84.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 4.)*

(No. 105.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, February 23, 1907.

I CALLED on M. Isvolsky this afternoon, and handed him a draft note, drawn up in the terms communicated to me in your telegram No. 23 of the 21st instant, relative to the prohibition of scientific missions in Thibet for a period of five years. His Excellency read the note, and said that he would tell me frankly that he was in a very difficult position in regard to the question, and he inquired whether it was necessary to state publicly and officially that no missions would be allowed to proceed to Thibet. Such prohibition would arouse great opposition in scientific and influential circles in Russia, and he would be sharply attacked for having consented to it being placed on record in such a formal manner. Personally he was in agreement with His Majesty's Government that for the present it would be advisable that no scientific missions should endeavour to enter Thibet, and he could, and would, prevent any explorers from organizing expeditions. But this was a very different matter to promulgating in a solemn manner that the interests of geographical science were to be discouraged for at least five years.

I said that, so far as I could judge, British men of science and explorers had accepted the prohibition which had been publicly announced in the House of Commons very reasonably and philosophically, and it seemed to me that it would be possible that in Russia a similar attitude would be adopted. M. Isvolsky did not agree with me; and after a short conversation he said that he would look into the matter and see if he could discover some other method by which the end we had in view could be attained.

[1722]

2 B



He did not object so much to the substance of our proposal as to the form in which we desired to clothe it.

In regard to the boundaries of Thibet it appeared to him that our draft note had considerably extended the limits of Thibet. I observed that I believed the definition given in the draft note was very approximately what were generally considered to be the confines of Thibet, and his Excellency said that he must study maps and authorities before being in a position to enter into detailed discussion.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[7146]

No. 85.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 4.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 27th February, relative to Dr. Sven Hedin's journey in Thibet.

*India Office, March 2, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 85.

*Mr. Morley to the Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, February 27, 1907.*

THIBET. Your telegram of the 24th instant.

I approve your view that, notwithstanding any order to the contrary from Gow, assistance to be given Sven Hedin, in the event of his reaching Gyantse, should be confined to facilitating his return to India. I also approve terms of O'Connor's letter to Sven Hedin. There is no objection, if it can be managed, to O'Connor at once informing Hedin unofficially of instructions of His Majesty's Government, but he should take no official action in matter pending Hedin's arrival at Gyantse. Instructions will be sent to Sir J. Jordan to inform Chinese Government of instructions given to O'Connor and to explain circumstances to them. Gow's unconciliatory action in general matters will also be mentioned by British Minister at Peking.

[7226]

No. 86.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 4.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 4th March, relative to Dr. Sven Hedin's journey in Thibet.

*India Office, March 4, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 86.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

*March 4, 1907.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

SVEN HEDIN'S journey. Your telegram of the 27th ultimo.

Following telegram, dated the 26th ultimo, received from Trade Agent at Gyantse :—

"Sven Hedin will resume journey in a few days, and continue exploration in north-westerly direction. He has decided not to come to Gyantse."

(Repeated to Peking.)



[7283]

No. 87.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 5.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 31st January, relative to conversations between Mr. Bell and Mr. Ch'ang on the subject of the Gyantse Trade Agency buildings and other matters.

*India Office, March 4, 1907.*


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Inclosure 1 in No. 87.

*Mr. Bell to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Gangtok, November 28, 1906.*

WITH reference to the correspondence resting with your telegram dated the 16th July, 1906, about the Gyantse Trade Agency buildings, I have the honour to submit herewith the notes on two conversations which I have held with Mr. Chang in Gyantse on this and other subjects. The main points are as follows:—

2. I made it clear to Mr. Chang that, so far as I was concerned, the discussions were quite informal, and that I had no power to bind Government in any way. Mr. Chang informed me that he had powers to settle all the questions discussed. Therefore, if the Government of India accepts the provisions agreed on by Mr. Chang and myself, these can be put into force subject to the reservation noted in paragraph 7 (a) below.

3. Mr. Chang agrees to give (on the site proposed in the British Trade Agent's telegram dated the 25th June, 1906, to your address) sufficient land for the Agency building, which includes quarters for the escort, the servants, &c., in addition to land for a polo ground, tennis courts, garden, &c., and space for a dāk bungalow and two or three other bungalows, which may hereafter be found necessary. The total area of the land is between 30 and 40 acres, and it would not be safe to take less than this in view of possible future requirements. A good deal of the area is uncultivable land, and this should be taken into consideration when the purchase-money or the rent is fixed. The land where the Agency building stands lies high, is close to the river, and just 1 mile from the Jong. It is 600 yards farther from the Jong than the present building, which was damaged hardly at all during several weeks of bombardment from the Jong. If the building were made farther from the Jong, it would be inconveniently far from Gyantse town. On the whole, it is, I think, the most suitable site, and it is the site approved by General Macdonald and Colonel Younghusband. A rough plan of the site is submitted and marked (A)\* and a sketch map of the surrounding land is submitted and marked (B)\*; for both of these I am indebted to the courtesy of Lieutenant Auckinleck, Officer Commanding the Escort. An accurate plan of the whole land of the trade mart will follow; I have deputed my surveyor from Gangtok to do this.

4. *Chinese Portion of the Trade Mart.*—This will run from the Agency site towards the Jong, and will include the residence of a Chinese official whom Mr. Chang intends to appoint to look after the mart and the non-British portion of the bazaar.

5. *Site for British and Indian Traders.*—This is to be the portion of the bazaar nearest Gyantse town, and therefore should be the most valuable portion of the bazaar. It is to have an area of 30,000 square yards, which, even after allowing for good broad roads, is ample for all requirements. It is probable that Gyantse will never be a very large trade mart for Indian traders, since it is off the direct route both to Lhasa and to Shigatse. Phari is more important than Gyantse from the Indian trader's point of view. It is further agreed that no tolls, cesses, or imposts shall be levied in excess of any that may be fixed in accordance with the amendments to be made in the present Trade Regulations. This provision is an advance on the existing

\* Not printed.



(Yatung) Trade Regulations, and is in accordance with Article 10 of the draft Trade Regulations forwarded with your letter dated the 1st August, 1906.

6. *British Trade Agent's Control.*—I stated during the discussion, and no objection was taken to my statement, that it would be necessary for the British Trade Agent to have full control over both the Agency site and the site for British and Indian traders.

7. *Matters remaining for Settlement.*—The following matters will remain for settlement if the above points are accepted by the Government of India :—

(a.) Firstly (and this should be settled at the earliest opportunity and independently of the other points remaining for settlement as enumerated below), we should obtain Thibetan concurrence to the Agreement both as regards the trade mart, including the Agency site, and the bungalows. I understand that Government desired me to take advantage of Mr. Chang's Mission to obtain a site for the Agency buildings, and I have therefore done so in conjunction with other matters which Mr. Chang was unwilling to consider independently of it. But I understand also that we do not recognize that China possesses sovereignty over Thibet, but suzerainty only. This being so, the Government of Thibet should be made a party to the present Agreement, since this concerns internal affairs, and the Agreement should be signed, not only by representative Chinese authority, but also on behalf of Thibet by the Ti-Rimpoche, by the Council (Ka-sha), by the three monasteries of Se-ra, Dre-pung, and Gan-den, and by the National Assembly (Tson-du Gyan-dzom). Mr. Chang will, perhaps, be able to obtain these signatures while he is at Lhasa. It will be remembered that the Thibetans, when dealing with us direct, refused to let us have any site whatever for the Agency buildings, whereas the Chinese are willing to give us this and a great deal more.

(b.) The terms of the lease or sale-deed of the land. This should, as stated above in paragraph 6, give complete control of the land to the British Trade Agent. We should erect our own shops, lay out our own roads, and police our two sites. If it should be found necessary in future for any reason to withdraw the present military escort from Gyantse, we can replace them by soldiers of the military police type. These can be termed police, and among their duties will be the maintenance of order in our two sites. Mr. Henderson tells me that the Chinese intend to send 100 of Viceroy Yuan-shikai's soldiers, the best soldiers in China, to police the Chinese portion of the trade mart. We can therefore retain at least 100 sepoys or military police, and should retain 200 or 300, if possible, to police our portions of the site. In the event of any further disturbance we shall then be sufficiently prepared.

(c.) The rent or sale price of the land. I have made it clear that we will not pay an arbitrary rate, and that the rate must be in some proportion to the market rate. I would suggest that we pay 25 per cent. over the market rate. As the land is chiefly for building purposes, it will be well worth this to us. If we take the land on lease and not on purchase, the lease should be a permanent one, and should stipulate for a fixed rent. We should not allow the rent to be raised in future years.

(d.) It should be stipulated that the present Gyantse bazaar must be effectively closed, no buying or selling at all being done there, and that no other bazaar in or near Gyantse should be allowed to be opened or to remain open. These provisions are important, as, if they are disregarded, the prosperity of the mart will be seriously affected.

(e.) It would also be as well to make it clear that Indian traders will be free to rent houses in Gyantse town in the same way that Nepalese (Newar) traders have done up to date should they prefer to do so and be able to arrange this. It is unlikely that Thibetans will be willing to let houses to them—at present, at any rate—but the privilege, already accorded by the Yatung Trade Regulations, should remain.

8. *Bungalows from the Tang-La to Gyantse.*—These will be sold to the Chinese at cost price, and the latter undertake to keep two rooms in each bungalow reserved for the accommodation of European travellers, and, if these rooms should not be kept clean, to consider favourably any request of ours to appoint our own chaukidars for these rooms. The Chinese undertake to improve the bungalows, which they consider insufficiently comfortable at present, and to manage them on the lines of the inspection bungalows in the Darjeeling district. Permanent passes will be given to anybody for whom the Political Officer in Sikkim, the Assistant Political Officer at Chumbi, or the British Trade Agent at Gyantse requires them. In this connection we should probably sell the bungalows to Thibet in order to avoid the appearance of seeming to recognize Chinese sovereignty. If Thibet makes them over to China and China pays for them we cannot prevent this. Whichever retains them, we have made sufficient provision for the



comfort of our officers and of travellers. We cannot well retain them ourselves without Thibet's permission, since we have no right to the land on which they stand.

9. *Removal of Trade Mart from Yatung to Phema.*—The Yatung trade mart to be removed to Phema. This will be altogether advantageous to us. The demerits of Yatung are too well known to Government to require description; Phema, on the other hand, has of all the places in the Chumbi Valley the best situation for a trade mart. It is situated at the junction of the Natu-La, Jeylap-La, and Phari-Chumbi roads, has plenty of flat ground, and is already a thriving village. It is, moreover, only  $3\frac{1}{4}$  miles by a good and level road from Chumbi, the head-quarters of the Assistant Political Officer and two companies of native infantry.

10. The above are the points agreed upon between Mr. Chang and myself. We obtain the Agency site that we desire with the grounds round it ample for all requirements. We receive sufficient land for our Indian traders in the most favourable position for trading. We control our own sites in every way, so that they will be practically British territory. The Yatung trade mart will be removed to a very good site in the Chumbi Valley. In return for these advantages we sell the dāk bungalows from the Tang-La to Gyantse, but under conditions that should insure their improvement and subsequent maintenance in quite sufficient comfort for the occupation of Europeans.

11. Before concluding my report on the subject-matter of the Agreement, I should state that I understand on the best possible authority that Mr. Chang entered on the discussion in a somewhat obstinate spirit and was disinclined to make concessions, since the misunderstanding with Lieutenant Campbell in the Chumbi Valley still rankles with him. The tone of the discussions was of course altogether friendly throughout. At the conclusion of the second and last one Lieutenant Bailey and I stopped to lunch with Mr. Chang. After lunch the latter thanked me for the friendly tone in which the discussions had been carried on, and assured me of the sincerity of his desire to promote the interests of the Gyantse trade mart as far as lies in his power.

12. *Gartok Trade Mart.*—A few matters unconnected with the Agreement were also discussed. As regards the Gartok trade mart I do not think that Government should give any such formal assurance as is asked for, in view of the recent affair of Shadi Lal and the taxes levied on the roads to Gartok in contravention of the Lhasa Convention. It is possible that the cold climate and the remoteness of Gartok may deter the Chinese from sending a responsible Chinese official to reside there permanently, even though we do not give them the assurance asked for.

13. *Oppression of Local People by British Trade Agent's Servants.*—I assured Mr. Chang that we would do all in our power to punish offenders and invited the co-operation of his officials in bringing such cases to our notice. I used to hear, since the Agency was opened in 1904, that such cases were occurring, and immediately on arrival at Gyantse warned Lieutenant Bailey to use all his endeavours to detect such cases and punish the offenders, since they bring disgrace upon our good name. Lieutenant Bailey had already dismissed, though for a different offence, the head of the transport corps, a notorious offender in this respect. Most of the offenders in the British Trade Agent's employ are Thibetans, not Indians or Nepalese.

*Conclusion.*—The end of the last discussion turned on points raised by Mr. Chang as regards rent and roads. With Mr. Henderson's assistance I closed the conversation at this point, as Mr. Chang showed signs of becoming intractable, and there was a danger that he might upset the whole Agreement on some minor point, a course of action to which he is, I believe, somewhat addicted.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 87.

*Notes on a Conversation between Mr. Chang and Mr. Bell at Gyantse on  
November 12, 1906.*

(Confidential.)

1. *Discussion, informal.*—Mr. Bell commenced by saying that, as he had no power to make any arrangement without orders from the Government of India, the discussion was to be quite informal.

2. *Agency Building Site.*—Referring to the proposed Agency building at Gyantse, Mr. Chang, on being shown a rough plan of the proposed site, which Mr. Bell said he had made as small as possible, said he approved of the size of the ground. He



expressed a wish to settle the matter amicably. Mr. Chang then said he proposed to send for a surveyor to have the ground accurately surveyed.

Mr. Bell said he would also get a surveyor to make a map for the benefit of the Government of India.\*

3. *Irrigation Channel.*—Mr. Bell said that as the Thibetans were constantly quarrelling amongst themselves about the water in irrigation channels, and such quarrels, as in India, frequently led to riots, sometimes accompanied by murder, he would ask Mr. Chang to permit the Trade Agent to make a channel of his own from the river to water his site. The fall of the river being very slight, the cut would have to be taken from the river some distance up. He asked that no Thibetans through whose fields this passes be allowed to use this water.

Mr. Chang approved of this.

4. *Site for Trade Mart.*—Mr. Chang then proposed that a piece of land 1,200 yards by 500 yards should be inclosed by four roads, the Chinese Government to have half for their traders, and the Government of India half for Indian traders, the actual bazaar to be between the two locations, half in each country's territory. (The British and Chinese Agents both to live in this inclosure.) The present bazaar in Gyantse was to be discontinued, and the traders ordered to trade at the proposed new site (about 1 mile from the present site of the bazaar).

Mr. Bell then suggested that it would be best to keep the bazaar in or adjoining the town and build traders' quarters near it and keep the British Trade Agent's quarters at some distance.

Mr. Chang said he thought that Thibetan traders could live in the town and come to the proposed mart for trading purposes and possibly keep their merchandize at the mart, themselves going home in the evening.

Mr. Bell said he thought that the most powerful Government in the world could not move the whole bulk of a trade by administrative enactment from one place to another.

Mr. Chang then said that he thought that once good houses were built on the new site the traders would willingly go there to trade.

Mr. Bell thought that, although some trade would be transacted in the new mart, some would still be transacted in Gyantse town to the disadvantage of Indian traders, who would be living a mile away.

Mr. Chang repeated that if suitable houses were built traders would gladly go to the new mart. He added that in all countries a certain amount of business was transacted in private houses, but the amount would be very small.

Mr. Bell said that Indian traders would be bound to lose something by being 1 mile from the town, and he thought that the amount lost would be considerable.

Mr. Chang said that if a trader had taken a long journey from India to Thibet, over high passes, he would not object to going 1 mile farther for purposes of trade.

Mr. Bell then suggested that the mart the Chinese proposed should be built adjoining the town, that Mr. Henderson had suggested the day before a new cart road to be made through the fields adjoining the town and had suggested both marts being there, that he agreed with the suggestion, which would, he thought, meet the requirements of Indian traders.

Mr. Chang said that he wished both Chinese and British Agents and the bazaar to be in one compound.

Mr. Bell then asked what was the objection to having two sites.

Mr. Chang replied that it would be easier to inspect the mart, and would generally be more convenient to have the trade on one site.

Mr. Bell said he would like to have the traders on one site near the town, and the British Trade Agent's residence on another site farther off, and that the British Trade Agent would have no difficulty in inspecting both his sites.

Mr. Chang again repeated that if suitable bazaar was built the traders would willingly move there to trade. He also said that, in his opinion, 1 mile was so close as not to make any difference to traders.

Mr. Henderson then said that the Shigatse and Lhasa traders would certainly all go to the mart if built as Mr. Chang proposes.

Mr. Bell again reminded Mr. Chang that the discussion was quite informal. He said that it appeared to him that they had come to a difference of opinion as to whether

\* I have directed my surveyor at Gangtok to proceed to Gyantse and make a survey on the scale of 32 inches to the mile. This will be large enough for showing future houses, shops, roads, &c.—C. A. BELL.



the fact of the mart being 1 mile from the town would affect the trade at all. He added that, speaking informally, the objection to having the British Trade Agent's residence nearer the town was a military one. The Tibetans had already once disregarded a Treaty made by China with Great Britain, and had shown no respect for Chinese authority, and had attacked a peaceful Mission sent by the Government of India. It was therefore necessary for the British Trade Agent's residence to be some distance from the town, but at the same time, in his opinion, the traders should have quarters nearer the town; otherwise their trade would suffer seriously.

Mr. Chang then said that the present site of the bazaar was unsuitable, being in a narrow, dirty street, and that the new site he proposed would be made better than the present one.

Mr. Bell then said that he agreed the present bazaar was a bad one, and he was glad that Mr. Chang was anxious to improve it, but that the way to improve it was to move it to a site adjoining the town, and not to a site 1 mile away from the town.

Mr. Bell, after Mr. Chang had repeated his arguments in favour of moving the bazaar as proposed, then said that, as there appeared to be a difference of opinion as to whether trade would be injuriously affected by being 1 mile from the bazaar, it would be useless to discuss this matter further. He suggested that another subject should be discussed.

5. *Dāk Bungalows*.—Mr. Chang said he would like the dāk bungalows on the road to be under Chinese control. Any traders or officials would be allowed to stop there for a fee of 1 rupee a-day, on receiving a pass from the Chinese official at Yatung, or from the Chinese official at Gyantse. The bungalows, he said, would be kept up on the lines of the bungalows near Kalimpong.

Mr. Bell said he thought it would be best if we kept the bungalows for our own people, and the Chinese made new bungalows of their own, since arrangements suitable for us might not suit Chinese, and *vice versa*.

Mr. Chang replied that the bungalows would only be used by high-class people, and so then it would make no difference to the occupier which nation the bungalows were under.

Mr. Bell suggested that we should keep the remaining bungalows, but should give up the Gyantse bungalow in order that our Settlement at Gyantse might be only on two sites instead of three, believing that this reduction of the number of our Settlements would be convenient to China.

Mr. Chang was of opinion that that would not be a good arrangement.

Mr. Henderson then said that the British Government should pay rent for the bungalow sites now occupied, and the Chinese Government should build their own bungalows.

Mr. Chang said that if the bungalows were kept clean and reserved for high-class people it would not matter which Government looked after them.

Mr. Bell agreed with Mr. Henderson that the Government of India should pay rent for the present sites, and the Chinese build their own bungalows. He said he would recommend the Government of India to pay five times the market rate for the land on which the bungalows were standing.

No agreement was reached on this matter, and it was decided to discuss something else.

6. *Restrictions on Trade*.—Mr. Bell asked if there would be any objection to having it clearly understood that there was to be no restriction on trade in any way.

Mr. Chang replied that he would certainly agree to that, and there should be no restrictions whatever.

Mr. Bell said that, as an example of what he meant, at Phari, after the Lhasa Convention was signed, Tibetan officials levied tolls. In future he would like a clear assurance that no tolls, cesses, or imposts would be levied in excess of any that might be fixed in accordance with the amendments to be made in the present Trade Regulations. Mr. Chang undertook that no such tolls, cesses, or imposts would be levied.

7. *Removal of Yatung Customs Station to Pibitang or Phema*.—Mr. Henderson then asked whether Mr. Bell was prepared to recommend to the Government of India that, with a view to improvement, the Yatung customs station should be moved to Pibitang or Phema.

Mr. Chang said that two Chinese officials would be there, one a Customs officer, and one a Trade Agent, and that trade would be improved by the post being moved to a better site. The Yatung Trade Agent and Chinese Commissioner of Customs would see the proposed new site and discuss the matter with Mr. Bell.



Mr. Bell said that he considered Mr. Chang's idea a very good one and that he would do all he could to help in the matter, and would recommend the proposal to the Government of India.

8. *Gartok Trade Mart.*—Mr. Chang said that Sir Louis Dane had told him in India that the Government of India were satisfied with the conditions of the Gartok trade mart, and that, therefore, he himself had not visited it, and did not propose to send a Chinese official to permanently reside there, but only to send a Chinese official to visit the place at the time of the fair, and then return. He wished, therefore, to know whether the Government of India would give him a written assurance that they were satisfied with the present condition of the trade mart there.

Mr. Bell said he had no information on this subject, but would ask the Government of India whether there was any objection to giving the written assurance requested.

9. *Extortion of Money and Supplies in the Name of the British Trade Agent.*—Mr. Chang said that there had been cases of people extorting money in the name of the British Trade Agent.

Mr. Bell said that the British Trade Agent would always welcome information leading to the conviction of such offenders, in order that he might punish them with the utmost rigour. If the culprit was not under our jurisdiction he hoped he would be similarly dealt with.

Mr. Chang said that he had a pile of petitions referring to that sort of thing, and that when all other matters were settled he would inquire into them and punish the people over whom he had power.

10. *General.*—Mr. Bell said that, as so much had been agreed to, it was a pity that an agreement could not be reached regarding a site for the trade mart near the bazaar, in addition to the Trade Agent's residence, and also regarding the bungalows, which was a very small and unimportant matter.

Mr. Chang said he thought the site chosen for the bazaar was very suitable.

Mr. Henderson said he would suggest a compromise to Mr. Chang, and would let us know about it later.

Mr. Bell said that he had put forward what he personally believed to be the absolute minimum in the way of trade requirements; but that, in order to arrive at an agreement, if such were possible, he would be very pleased to discuss any suggestion that might be brought forward. He further said that he would report carefully to the Government of India all that Mr. Chang had said.

In addition to Mr. Chang and Mr. Bell, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Gow (interpreter to Mr. Chang), and Lieutenant Bailey (officiating British Trade Agent) were present at the interview. The last-named made full notes of the proceedings, and from those notes these Minutes have been prepared. On the Chinese side no notes were made during the interview.

(Signed) C. A. BELL,  
Officiating Political Officer, Sikkim.

Gyantse, November 13, 1906.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 87.

*Notes on Conversation between Mr. Chang and Mr. Bell at Gyantse on  
November 14, 1906.*

(Confidential.)

*Mr. Chang's Powers.*—Mr. Bell commenced by reiterating his former statement that he himself had no power to decide anything without referring to his Government, and asked Mr. Chang what his powers were.

Mr. Chang said he had full powers to discuss and decide all subjects which had come up for discussion. He was very glad to have met Mr. Bell, and to have this informal discussion.

Mr. Bell said he reciprocated Mr. Chang's views, and appreciated the advantages that might be expected from a friendly talk.

Mr. Chang said that he had been appointed to open the trade mart; that as the weather was getting cold, and he had to go to Lhasa, he would like the matter quickly and amicably arranged.

Mr. Bell said he would not delay in informing the Government of India of Mr. Chang's views, in order to save the latter any possible inconvenience.



*Site of Trade Mart.*—Mr. Chang then said that he had made up his mind to do what he had suggested at the previous interview.

Mr. Bell said he would like to talk a little more on the subject. He appreciated Mr. Chang's efforts to improve trade. He understood Mr. Chang proposed to establish the trade mart up to the wall of the riding school, setting aside the portion nearest the bazaar for Indian traders, this portion to have a frontage of 100 yards, and to run back 300 yards.\* But this point of the proposed bazaar was 1,100 yards from the nearest portion of the town in which trade is done. He feared that trade would be considerably injured by the bazaar being this distance off. At the same time, he recognized that Mr. Chang wished to do all he could to improve trade, and wished to have the whole Settlement in one block. He would, however, suggest a small change, as follows: The site should be lengthened slightly, and, if there was any objection to increasing the area,† the width should be slightly reduced; that the portion of the site outside the proposed Agency site is 950 × an average of 350 yards, according to Mr. Henderson; that the length of the proposed Agency site was about 600 yards; that the length proposed by Mr. Chang was 1,550 yards, with a breadth for most part of the way of 350 yards; that I asked merely for a length of 1,950 yards, with a breadth of 250 yards, which would give the same area as Mr. Chang's site, and be practically the same as it.

Mr. Chang said that, from inquiries he had made, he had found that all the traders agreed in saying that trade would be improved by being moved to the site he proposed. In China all Settlements were far from the native town, where water is bad and other disadvantages exist. The site would be to the advantage of all traders, and would avoid possible trouble with inhabitants by not being in the town, and he therefore wished to place the Settlement at some distance.

Mr. Henderson said he would advise Mr. Chang to accept Mr. Bell's proposal.

Mr. Chang said that if, as he hoped, trade increased in a few years, it might then be necessary to extend area of Settlement, and in that case the ground Mr. Bell proposed to take up might be used for the extension. All traders had agreed that the site he proposed was suitable.

Mr. Henderson said Mr. Bell's suggestion was a good one; the longer road which would be made in the Settlement by lengthening the latter would give more frontage, and would be more convenient for the shops along it, and the distance left between the nearest houses and the bazaar was sufficient to insure cleanliness.

Mr. Bell said his scheme was practically the same as Mr. Chang's, but with a very slight difference. He would suggest that the end of the bazaar be not nearer than 100 yards from the nearest house of the town, in order to meet Mr. Chang's views regarding cleanliness, &c. He had dropped his own scheme, which was to have the bazaar adjoining the trading portion of the town, and adopted Mr. Chang's scheme with a very slight difference.

Mr. Chang said he thought the site proposed by Mr. Bell would be too near the native town. If the area proved too much, he would like this piece of land for extension.

Mr. Bell said the site he proposed was not near the native town, but near a strip of houses joining two portions of the town, and that he proposed to keep 100 yards even from these houses.

*Dak Bungalows.*—Mr. Chang said he would agree to Mr. Bell's proposal on the subject if Mr. Bell would meet his views about the bungalows on the road. He wished the question of the trade mart and the bungalows to be regarded as one.

Mr. Henderson said that the Chinese Government wished to buy the bungalows, to improve them, and to place a sensible Chinese *chaukidar* in each, and only to allow gentry to occupy them.

Mr. Bell said he understood that the two matters were to be treated together. He added that he supposed that it was as a matter of principle that the Chinese objected to our owning bungalows in Thibetan territory. He added that at present more Europeans than Chinese occupied the bungalows. He said that the Government of India would require a guarantee that the bungalows would be kept up suitably.

Mr. Chang said they would be so kept up.

\* This was in accordance with the compromise suggested by Mr. Henderson to Mr. Chang and myself, and accepted by the latter. It brings the bazaar half a mile nearer the town than Mr. Chang's proposal at the last meeting.—C. A. BELL.

† Mr. Henderson had previously informed me that Mr. Chang was afraid he had already included too much land, and that he would therefore lay himself open to the criticism of his Government for having done so.—C. A. BELL.



Mr. Bell said that he wished to meet Mr. Chang's views, but suggested that it might be more convenient for us to have our own bungalows.

Mr. Chang was glad that Mr. Bell wished to meet his views, and said that if the bungalows were sold he would accept Mr. Bell's proposal for trade mart.

Mr. Bell said he would like it settled who was to be entitled to use the bungalows.

Mr. Chang said Mr. Gow would look after them and adopt the usual regulations in force in the bungalows in the Kalimpong district and Sikkim. He intended to make the bungalows a good deal better than they were at present. He added that he desired to improve the whole country in every way.

Mr. Bell said he quite understood that, and that he only wished that the bungalows should be kept up in such a manner that they would be suitable for the habitation of all who might have reason to use them. What suited Europeans might not suit Chinese, and *vice versa*.

Mr. Henderson suggested that the Government of India should keep a chaukidar of their own, in addition to the Chinese chaukidar.

Mr. Chang said that he thought the Indian chaukidar unnecessary, as the bungalow would be kept clean without him.

Mr. Bell said that officials would be changed from time to time, and that we should allow for a man being in charge who would not take an interest in the bungalows and allow them to be neglected.

Mr. Gow suggested that two rooms should be reserved for Europeans and two for Chinese.

Mr. Bell said that he approved of this, but that for these two European rooms we would like our own chaukidar, who would not interfere with the rest of the bungalow.

Mr. Chang said he would like to place one man in charge of the whole of the rooms, as two chaukidars might quarrel.

Mr. Henderson said that he thought two chaukidars would be best, as a British official might come who did not talk Chinese and would have difficulties about supplies.

Mr. Gow replied that the pass which would be issued to travellers would cover all such difficulties, and when issuing passes he would give orders so that fuel, fodder, and other ordinary available supplies were ready against the traveller's arrival.

Mr. Bell repeated that he would like an Indian chaukidar to look after the European rooms.

Mr. Chang said that if anything was found unsatisfactory in the bungalows a complaint made to the Chinese officials would be considered.

Mr. Bell said he hoped that, in the event of the European portion of any of the bungalows being found dirty, the question of the appointment of chaukidars by the Political Officer in Sikkim might be favourably considered.

Mr. Chang agreed that in that event the question would be favourably considered.

Mr. Henderson said that he supposed that for the European rooms the Political Officer in Sikkim, the Assistant Political Officer, and British Trade Agent would have power to issue passes.

Mr. Chang proposed that Chinese officials should issue all passes.

Mr. Henderson said that certain people should be allowed to use the bungalows without passes.

Mr. Chang agreed that permanent passes would be issued to any people for whom either the Political Officer, the Assistant Political Officer, or the British Trade Agent required them.

*Rent of Site.*—Mr. Chang said he wished the rent of the Agency site and the site for Indian traders to be settled.

Mr. Henderson suggested that the land on the mart side be valued at 15 per cent. above market price, as previously suggested by Mr. Bell, as he thought the idea a sound one.

Mr. Chang said that the land would not be Thibetan land, but Chinese, and he wished to fix the rate at so much per acre independently of market value. He would compare it with Chinese land in Treaty ports in China, in which three classes were recognized:—

First class land was sold at 100 dollars per mow.			
Second	"	80	"
Third	"	50	"
One mow = $\frac{1}{3}$ acre.			

Mr. Bell said that what the Government of India paid should be in some proportion of the value of the land. He could not understand the suggestion that the rent of the



land in a poor place like Gyantse should depend on the value of land in the rich Treaty ports of China.

Mr. Chang said the land was not Thibetan land, and he wished to fix the rent at the rate of the cheapest land in China, and if the Government of India were unwilling to pay the rent asked they would not have the land at all.

Mr. Henderson suggested that the land should be valued by the officials of both countries with the help of a Thibetan official, and that a percentage of 15 per cent. or 20 per cent. be added.

Mr. Bell said that he feared that the Government of India would not be prepared to pay an exorbitant rent fixed irrespective of the market rate.

Mr. Henderson said that if Mr. Chang demands 500 rupees an acre when the real value was 20 rupees an acre the Government of India would refer the matter to the Wai-wu Pu, who would ask Mr. Chang his reasons.

Mr. Bell said that Chinese writers and Thibetan officials should value the land, and he was prepared to ask the Government of India to pay 25 per cent. in excess of the value. Not one of them sitting round the table discussing these matters knew at present the market value of the land round Gyantse, and it appeared to him impossible to fix a rate independently of the market rate.

Mr. Chang then dropped the matter.

*Roads and Settlements.*—Mr. Chang said that he intended to surround the Settlement with roads, and then cut it up into blocks by cross roads, and assess the value of each block thus made; the roads to be made by China, and no rent to be charged for land occupied by roads.

Mr. Bell said that it would be best to be content with the points already settled, which were the main ones. These minor points might be settled later. He added that, since the British would have control over their own sites in every way, it would be difficult to accept the idea that the Chinese authorities should make roads in the British sites.

Mr. Chang then dropped this question also.

(Signed) C. A. BELL,  
*Officiating Political Officer, Sikkim.*

*Gyantse, November 15, 1906.*

Inclosure 4 in No. 87.

*Government of India to Mr. Bell.*

*Fort William, January 21, 1907.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 28th November, 1906, regarding the conversations held by you with Mr. Chang at Gyantse on the subject of the Trade Agency buildings and other matters.

2. In reply I am to say that your proposals as to the site of the British Trade Agency at Gyantse appear to the Government of India to be generally suitable, but before any orders are passed in the matter, they desire that Captain O'Connor's opinion on the subject should be procured and furnished to them.

Captain O'Connor should also be instructed to ascertain from the local Thibetan and Chinese officials the terms on which the site proposed for the buildings could be acquired or leased.

It is essential that, when the time for the signature of the lease or sale deed arrives, the signature of the local Thibetan, as well as of the local Chinese, official should be affixed to the document in the event of the land being the property of the Thibetan Government. In this connection I am to forward to you a copy of a telegram from the Secretary of State, dated the 5th July, 1906, drawing attention to the fact that a duly authorized Thibetan Representative must be made a party to any arrangement that may be arrived at as to matters covered by the Lhasa Convention.

3. With reference to your suggestions on the subject of a special site for the trade mart, I am to inform you that the Government of India do not consider it necessary at present to move in the matter, nor do they contemplate entering into any agreement with Mr. Chang and the Thibetan Government of the kind proposed in paragraph 7 (a) of your letter.

4. I am further to say that Mr. Chang in his conversations with you at Gyantse touched on a number of topics which the Government of India do not desire to discuss



with him at present. It is understood that your conversations with him were informal, but it is desirable that no further discussions should be initiated with the Chinese without specific instructions on the subject of the modification of the Trade Regulations, the transfer of the bungalows along the Tangla-Gyantse road to the Chinese Government, the actual situation of the trade mart in Chumbi, or arrangements at the Gartok trade mart. Any proposals, however, that the Chinese or Thibetans may make on these subjects should be submitted, together with the opinions of the local officers, to the Government of India.

It is desirable, in the opinion of the Government of India, that the Chinese Government should be left to make the first move as regards any alterations of the *status quo* which they may desire to effect in Thibet.

5. A copy of this letter, together with a copy of your letter under reply, is being forwarded to the British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for information.

[7420]

No. 88.

*Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 6.)*

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Stockholm, March 6, 1907.

THE Chinese interference with the return of Sven Hedin is causing the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs some anxiety as to the result, which he has expressed to me. The explanation of the delay which has taken place is clear from the telegraph sections which I have this day received.

Can I communicate anything on the subject to the Swedish Government?

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

[7420]

No. 89.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir R. Rodd.*

(No. 2.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, March 6, 1907.

SVEN HEDIN'S journey in Thibet. Your telegram No. 3 of to-day.

You may communicate following information to Swedish Government:—

The view of the Government of India that, in the event of Hedin reaching Gyantse, assistance should be given for his return to India, notwithstanding any order from Gow to the contrary, has been approved by us.

We have since been informed that Hedin has decided not to go to Gyantse, but will start again shortly and continue to explore towards the north-west.

[7477]

No. 90.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 7.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 31st January, relative to Chumbi Valley affairs.

*India Office, March 6, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 90.

*Note on the Chumbi Valley.*

(Confidential.)

OUR position in the valley is peculiar and that of the Headmen there is an extremely difficult one. They have to steer a course between us now and the Thibetans and Chinese with the knowledge that they will very shortly be handed back to Thibet



and be at the mercy of both Chinese and Thibetan officials. I think that in this most trying position they have behaved exceedingly well.

I agree with all Lieutenant Campbell has said, and there is no doubt that were the disturbing elements removed from the valley there would be absolutely no difficulty in administering it.

I append Lieutenant Campbell's Confidential note.

(Signed) J. C. WHITE,  
Political Officer in Sikkim.

Gangtok, July 14, 1906.

1. The continued presence in the Chumbi Valley and at Phari of Thibetan and Chinese officials and the retention of the Imperial Chinese customs station at Yatung remain disturbing factors in the present administration of the district. Although, on the whole, these officials, with the exception of the Phari Jongpens, have accepted the present state of affairs and refrain, at least outwardly, from interfering in the administration, there is still much to be desired. They continue to exercise a moral influence which makes itself felt in a subdued way.

2. The repeated attempts on the part of the Phari Jongpens to reassert their authority and their official recognition by those officials from Lhasa and Shigatse who have visited Phari under the present régime have already been reported. The opportunity has been taken of impressing, first on the Shigatse officials accompanying the Tashi Lama and, later on, Sechung Shape and his staff, the fact that the Phari Jongpens have only been permitted to remain at Phari as private persons. The continual reminders of the necessity of fulfilling the duties of their office, under threats of punishment to follow, which reach the Jongpens from Lhasa, may be regarded as the principal cause which has militated against their peaceful acceptance of the present order of things. There is also the personal element, and here the people of Phari are as much to blame as the Jongpens themselves. In the absence of any civil officer at Phari there is no doubt that the villagers still encourage the Jongpens to consider themselves the principal personages in the neighbourhood. I have not been able to elicit any facts, but I strongly suspect that a certain quantity of free supplies and service still finds its way to the Jongpens—perfectly willing, no doubt, on the part of the givers, for the simple reason that the people are very well aware that our occupation of their country may terminate in a comparatively short time and they have therefore no mind to make enemies of the men who may shortly resume their former authority.

3. The position of the Chinese officials is more peculiar. Before our arrival, although nominally occupying a position distinct from that of the local Thibetan officials, they were at the same time sufficiently powerful to enforce their wishes in practice. The Popön or Liang-d'ai at Pi-pi-tang and the Tung-ling at Chüten Karpo are, like all Chinese officials, miserably underpaid. The Popön keeps up an establishment of fifty persons—clerks, yamen runners, policemen, and various minor employés. The Tung-ling has a smaller establishment, but a larger total following if his soldiers are included. The soldiers are paid—at irregular intervals. The other servants may receive a nominal wage, but possibly only a ration of rice. In China persons associated with the judicial functions of a provincial mandarin are not usually paid as they have other and ample opportunities of making a living. If the Chumbi Valley had been a part of China proper, the people would have had to contribute largely to the up-keep of the Yamen establishments, but it appears that the Chinese have never been made a burden on the Tromo people. The only privileges which they used to enjoy were the transport at reduced rates for which the Thibetan Government paid, and perhaps a certain amount of grass and wood at nominal prices. The Headmen are very reticent on the subject of their dealings with the Chinese officials and maintain that they were in much the same position as the Maharaja of Sikkim in the Chumbi Valley, but this is difficult to believe. Mr. Walsh has pointed out in his Report on this part of Thibet how the Chinese first came to the Chumbi Valley (paragraph 127, *et seq.*). At first they appear to have acted rather unwisely. The Headmen state that at that time transport was demanded without any payment whatsoever. The Lhasa Amban was in the valley and the Tromo-was, taking the law into their own hands, surrounded the house where he was living and threatened him with violence unless payment was made for transport supplies to the Chinese officials. The Amban yielded, and since that time the Chinese have not attempted to oppress the people of the valley. They appear to have been content to remain as spectators, and by conciliating the Headmen with



entertainments they have been tolerated as well-meaning and have gradually acquired a certain amount of influence which, however, has never enabled them to interfere in purely local affairs. The Chinese continue to offer the Tromo-was hospitality on certain public occasions, and it is possible that their show of benevolent friendship and the fear of trouble hereafter leads the Headmen and the people to watch their attitude with considerable interest and to be guided to a certain extent by such pronouncements as may be semi-privately given out at Pi-pi-tang from time to time. To all outward appearance the behaviour of the Chinese and the Headmen has been perfectly correct. However, the peculiarity of their relations is worthy of record as a clue to the attitude of the Headmen in certain cases.

4. Lastly, there remains the custom station at Yatung. Mr. Henderson, the present holder of the Yatung appointment, has been absent from Yatung for more than a year, so that I have no personal experience of the effect of the presence of a European customs officer in the Chumbi Valley. In his absence the routine business of registering the trade passing through Yatung has been performed by the customs clerk, Wangchuk Tsering, a native of Darjeeling. There are also a number of chaprassies, clad in a red and blue livery and forage caps which give them the appearance of Government servants. In the absence of the customs officer the Yatung office has been principally active as an intelligence bureau. One of the chaprassies visits Chumbi every three or four days and collects what news he can. The clerk acts as forwarding agent for communications passing between the Chinese officials in Calcutta and Lhasa. The question of removing the customs station from Yatung is no new one, so that it seems unnecessary to repeat here what has already been fully reported by my predecessor, Mr. C. A. Bell.

5. Should the three classes of official mentioned above be removed from the Chumbi Valley, there can be no doubt that it would be a change for the better. The people would no longer be influenced by the thought of the surveillance of their former superiors, still resident in their midst and only waiting for the termination of the present rule to exact satisfaction from those who, in acting in accordance with the orders of the present Government, have gone contrary to the ways and wishes of the old.

(Signed) W. L. CAMPBELL, *Lieutenant,*  
*Assistant Political Officer.*

*Chumbi, May 18, 1906.*

[7472]

No. 91.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 7.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated 31st January and 7th February, relative to Thibet Trade Regulations.

*India Office, March 6, 1907.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 91.

*Government of India to Mr. White.*

(Confidential.)

*Simla, August 1, 1906.*

WITH reference to the correspondence ending with the letter from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, dated the 18th January, 1905, I am directed to forward, for information and any remarks that you may have to offer, a copy of the draft Thibet Trade Regulations.



## Inclosure 2 in No. 91.

*Government of India to Mr. Calvert.\**

(Confidential.)

*Simla, August 1, 1906.*

I AM directed to forward herewith, for your information, the accompanying copy of a draft of the Thibet Trade Regulations which are to form the basis of the negotiations contemplated by Article III of the Anglo-Thibetan Convention, dated the 7th September, 1904, and to request that the Government of India may be furnished with any remarks you may have to offer on the subject.

## Inclosure 3 in No. 91.

*Government of India to Government of the United Provinces.†*

(Confidential.)

*Simla, August 1, 1906.*

I AM directed to forward herewith, for information, the accompanying copy of a draft of the Thibet Trade Regulations which are to form the basis of the negotiations contemplated by Article III of the Anglo-Thibetan Convention, dated the 7th September, 1904, and to request that the Government of India may be furnished with any remarks his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor may have to offer on the subject.

## Inclosure 4 in No. 91.

*Lieutenant Campbell to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Chumbi, August 17, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated Simla, the 1st August, 1906, inclosing a copy of a draft of the Thibet Trade Regulations.

2. There are three points in connection with local conditions at and between the trade marts of Yatung and Gyantse on which I have the honour to submit the following remarks:—

(1.) *Article 4.*—"And in no case shall the period of detention exceed four days."—As mules and ponies are practically the only available means of transport for goods passing over the Indo-Thibetan frontier at present and as there is no immediate prospect of a cart-road being constructed, considerable hardship will be caused if baggage animals are detained for even twenty-four hours at a point near the frontier where grass may be practically unobtainable. As Article 4 stands at present it is more than likely that the Thibetan authorities will take advantage of the four days rule to detain traders on any flimsy pretext. They will always claim that the traders were not "unnecessarily detained," and it will be difficult to prove the contrary. From the tone adopted by the Lhasa officials who have recently passed through the Chumbi Valley, I anticipate that every opportunity for the imposition of "vexatious restrictions" will be used to the best advantage. It might be possible to alter the wording of Article 4 somewhat as follows:—

" . . . . import duty. Only under very exceptional circumstances shall the period of detention extend to twenty-four hours, and in no case shall the said period exceed four days."

(2.) *Article 10.*—"Rest-houses . . . . reasonable daily rent."—The Depön who has come from Lhasa to meet Mr. Chang has given out that immediately after the evacuation, which is to take place next year, all buildings erected under the present administration in the Chumbi Valley, with the exception of the house at present occupied by the Assistant Political Officer and the staging bungalow at Chumbi, will be pulled down at the expense of the Chinese Government. The two buildings thus favoured are

\* Also to Lieutenant Campbell.

† Also to the Government of the Punjab and the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam.



to be kept for the use of British and Thibetan officials using the road. It may be well to secure that the rest-houses built at the expense of the Government of India between the frontier and Gyantse shall be preserved intact and, I would suggest, under the control of the British Trade Agents at Yatung and Gyantse, who should be provided with the necessary funds for keeping the houses clean and in proper repair and paying chowkidars. So long as the houses remain under the control of the Trade Agents, so long will suitable accommodation be available for officers and others travelling between the frontier and Gyantse. If the rest-houses are handed over to the Thibetan authorities they will be neglected, the fittings will be stolen, and the houses reduced to an uninhabitable condition by the junior Thibetan officials and Government traders (Zhung Tsong-pa) who, enjoying the privileges of officials, will occupy these bungalows with results known only to those who are aware of the domestic habits of the lower classes in Thibet.

(3.) *Article 10.*—The words “reasonable daily rent.”—In the “Regulations regarding Trade, Communication, and Pasturage,” appended to the Sikkim-Thibet Convention of 1890, Article II, the words “daily rent” are employed. The Thibetan authorities posted notices on the hovels at Yatung stating that the monthly rent was 10 rupees per room. The notices have faded, but they are still legible. This exorbitant rent was demanded from Miss A. Taylor, who occupies five rooms, and who used to pay 50 rupees per month. I doubt whether the word “reasonable” will be sufficient to deter the Thibetan authorities from demanding these high rents hereafter. They will always say that from their point of view the rent demanded is reasonable, and it may be difficult to obtain a reduction. I would therefore suggest the addition to Article 10, after the word “rent,” of the words “to be fixed by the local Thibetan authorities in consultation with the British Trade Agent at the nearest mart.”

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Inclosure 5 in No. 91.

*Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Shillong, August 24, 1906.*

WITH reference to Mr. Gabriel's letter dated the 1st August, 1906, I am directed to say that the Lieutenant-Governor has no remarks to offer on the draft of the Thibet Trade Regulations. His Honour presumes that this Government will be separately addressed in regard to the selection of customs stations on the Udalgiri route under Article 3 of the draft Regulations.

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Inclosure 6 in No. 91.

*Mr. White to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Gartok, August 31, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Foreign Department letter dated the 1st August, 1906, forwarding, for information and any remarks I may have to offer, a copy of the draft Thibet Trade Regulations.

2. In reply I submit the following remarks:—

*Article 10.*—“And also that a special and fitting residence . . . to reside at each mart.” The Government of India are no doubt aware of the nature of the building which was constructed for the residence of the British official at Yatung in 1894, which was eventually occupied by the Chinese Commissioner of Customs, but not without considerable alterations and additions to make it suitable for a European. The style and architecture of Thibetan buildings are opposed to our ideas of comfort and sanitation, and if the Thibetan Government are to build residences for British officials at all the trade marts, they are sure to be built with the minimum of comfort and without fireplaces, which, in a climate like that of Thibet, would prove a positive hardship to our officers who will have to reside permanently in them. I would suggest that these residences be provided by the Government of India, as is already being done at Gyantse, and that the wording of this sentence be altered accordingly. If the Thibetan authorities are to provide these residences, it is as likely as not that they will employ their usual obstructive and dilatory methods in the construction of these buildings so as to postpone the opening of any mart that may be established hereafter.



3. There are other objections, but they have been dealt with in Lieutenant Campbell's letter dated the 17th August, 1906, to your address. I agree with all that he has said regarding the "period of detention," "rest-houses," and "rent," and consider it very necessary that the control of the existing rest-houses on the Gangtok-Gyantse route should be retained by us. I have not yet received a copy of the reply sent to Government by the British Trade Agent at Gyantse.

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Inclosure 7 in No. 91.

*Government of the Punjab to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Simla, September 20, 1906.*

IN reply to the Government of India letter dated the 1st August, 1906, I am desired to say that, in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor, the draft of the Thibet Trade Regulations forwarded with your letter is suitable, and calls for no remarks.

As a matter of wording, the Lieutenant-Governor would suggest that, as clause 11 relates to conditional permission of export and import as well as to prohibition, the word "regulated" should, in the second line of clause 8, be substituted for "prohibited."

2. The Lieutenant-Governor has not consulted Mr. Calvert, C.S., now on special duty in Thibet, as he understands that the Government of India are obtaining his opinion direct.

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Inclosure 8 in No. 91.

*Government of the United Provinces to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

Sir,

*Naini Tal, October 18, 1906.*

I AM directed to reply to Mr. Gabriel's Confidential letter, dated the 1st August, 1906, in which the opinion of this Government is asked on the draft of the Thibet Trade Regulations, which are to form the basis of the negotiations contemplated by Article III of the Anglo-Thibetan Convention, dated the 7th September, 1904.

2. The draft Trade Regulations lay down a maximum limit of 5 per cent. *ad valorem* to import duties on goods imported into Thibet from British India. Mr. Sherring, who was consulted by this Government, shows in his Report (a copy of which is inclosed) that the present dues are under  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. *ad valorem*, and that to increase the dues would practically extinguish trade. Moreover, he gives reasons for believing that the creation of a regular machinery for the collection of Tariff dues, which would mean harassment of traders and systematic evasion, would be prejudicial to our interests in particular.

3. With reference to draft Regulation 1, laying down that there should be no Tariff discrimination against British goods, Mr. Sherring points out that there is apparently no duty on goods imported from China, and that, owing to the difficulty in ascertaining what is happening on other frontiers of Thibet, it would be impossible to secure that importers from British India pay no higher Tariff rate than Nepalese and others.

4. The view that the Lieutenant-Governor is disposed to adopt is that no new restrictions should be placed on trade, and in no case should the present dues be exceeded—if, indeed, it is not deemed advisable to provide that there should be no customs dues at all. This is the proposal which has already, in this Government's letter dated the 8th May, 1906, been placed before the Government of India for consideration, with the suggestion that in substitution for the dues in Western Thibet 5,000 rupees a-year for ten years be paid to the local Thibetan officials for road-making and clearing, on the necessity for which stress is laid in paragraph 19 of Mr. Sherring's note.

5. In conclusion I am to say that it has been ascertained from Kunwar Kharag Singh Pal, Deputy Collector of Almara, who has returned from his tour in Thibet, that the Garphans and other officials in Thibet have not yet been furnished with a copy of the Convention between the Governments of Great Britain and Thibet, signed at Lhasa on the 7th September, 1904, nor have they received any instructions in



accordance with it. It is essential that, when the Trade Regulations are settled, copies should be furnished by the Government at Lhasa without delay to their local Representatives, and the necessary instructions issued to them.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. M. HOLMS, *Chief Secretary.*

Inclosure 9 in No. 91.

*Mr. Calvert to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

November 22, 1906.

IN reply to your letter dated the 1st August, 1906, forwarding a draft of the Thibet Trade Regulations, I have the honour to submit certain remarks thereon.

2. *Regulation 1.*—I note that the wording is general, and I think the Thibetans will attempt to limit the meaning of the word merchandize so as to exclude tea. If the words "including tea" could be inserted after the word "merchandize," our position would be strengthened. From Northern India at least the only article of export to Thibet likely to assume importance is tea (see my Report, paragraph 60).

3. I presume it is intended that the words "foreign country" and "foreign nation" shall include China and the Chinese, but I very much doubt if the Thibetans will allow this interpretation, and there is a likelihood of trouble over this.

4. *Regulation 2.*—In paragraphs 62 and 63 of my Report, as well as in Chapter VI, I have discussed the present practice as regards dues. I believe that the Bhotias of Almorah and Garhwal pay less than 5 per cent. of their exports from British India as dues, whereas the Lahulis and the Buddhist traders of Ladakh pay a liberal 10 per cent. I venture to suggest that a clause be inserted here limiting the duties to 5 per cent. *ad valorem*, or to those at present collected whichever shall be less. In this way the Lahulis and Buddhist Ladakhis will benefit and the Bhotias will not lose.

5. In this connection the old Ladakh Treaty and the alleged Bashahr Treaty (*vide* paragraphs 47 and 51 of my Report) should be taken into consideration and some effort be made to secure the continuance of the exemption from duties at present enjoyed in accordance with these Treaties. It must also be remembered that members of the Lapehak Mission enjoy free transport in Thibet.

6. Some machinery should be provided for determining the market cost of merchandize at the frontier of Thibet. In the case of Hari Kharsum, the British Trade Agent and the Garpons should be empowered to fix the rates. Regulation 12 could be extended to meet this case.

7. At present in Western Thibet dues are collected in kind, and the officials thus get their grain, gur, cloth, and other things free. The Senior Garpon told me there would be no objection to, and no difficulty in, the collections being made in cash. But in this case the various officials would have to purchase from our traders, and it is hardly to be expected that these transactions would be free from compulsion; it is very probable that our traders would lose. Oppression can only be obviated by a watchful policy on our part.

8. The duties should be payable in Indian (silver) currency; I believe both our traders and the Thibetan officials would prefer this, and I think it should be explicitly provided for. Otherwise it is not beyond the intelligent wiliness of the local Thibetan official to demand payment in tankas and artificially raise the rate of exchange. At present a tanka is valued at 6 annas, but 3 are considered equivalent to a rupee. I found the Thibetans unwilling to accept sovereigns or Indian coppers.

9. I presume that transport animals will be exempt from duties under this Regulation. At present a tax of 4 rupees for every hundred sheep brought for transporting the wool, &c., is levied from Lahulis.

The present duties are levied on articles brought for the actual consumption of the trader. If the words "for sale or barter" were added after the word "imported" in the second line, this would secure the exemption of both transport animals' and traders' food.

10. *Regulation 3.*—This Regulation, read with Regulation 4, suggests that the customs stations are to be within 10 miles of the frontier. I doubt if this would be practicable. For instance, it would necessitate a station in the Para Valley, where none of the Thibetan lay officials have any interest or authority. It would also lead to an unnecessary increase of stations, *e.g.*, instead of Tashigong, which commands the Indus Valley and Bodpo Lah (from Bashahr) routes, two stations would be necessary.



We should endeavour in Western Thibet to arrange that the collection of duties is in the hands of the Dzongpons as at present. Over these people we can exert a certain influence, as they are appointed for a period of years and will be careful to avoid the risk of being removed. But if special officials are appointed there will be more cupidity to satisfy, and if, as in the cases of the Serpon and Government tea vendor, the appointments are for a year only, we shall have no control over them.

11. On the remaining proposed Regulations I am not in a position to offer criticisms. Anything that I could say has probably already been taken into consideration. I should like to be permitted to point out that the wide and general terms used in the Regulations will probably lead to disputes as to interpretation. With a British officer as Trade Agent in Central Thibet we need not fear the results of these disputes; but in Western Thibet we have a native official who is not altogether too well supplied with firmness.

12. I venture to suggest that an additional provision be inserted to the effect that each Government agrees to take adequate precautions for the safety from robbers and dacoits, &c., of traders of the other. This will not impose any burden on us, and will enable us to draw the attention of the Thibetan Government to the prevalence of dacoits around the holy lakes and east of the goldfields. It is the fear of these which deters our traders from venturing farther afield.

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Inclosure 10 in No. 91.

*Mr. Bell to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Gangtok, December 14, 1906.*

IN continuation of Mr. White's letter dated the 31st August, 1906, I have the honour to submit the following remarks on the draft Thibet Trade Regulations:—

2. *Article 1.*—"Any other foreign country." The draft Regulations forwarded to the British Commissioner for Thibet Frontier Matters with your telegram dated the 10th September, 1904, omitted the above word "foreign." By including the word "foreign" it is perhaps intended to exempt Chinese subjects from this proviso.

3. *Article 4.*—"10 miles from the frontier." It should perhaps be made clear that these 10 miles are to be reckoned as the crow flies and not by road. The most suitable place for examination on the principal trade route between India and Thibet, *i.e.*, that passing through Chumbi, will be at Phema, where the Gangtok and Kalimpong roads converge and where our new trade examination post is being built. But Phema, though less than 10 miles from the frontier as the crow flies, is 14 or 15 miles by road.

4. *Article 6.*—"Imposed by them in respect of goods imported into British India." Perhaps "such" should be inserted before "goods," in order to show clearly that each class of goods imported from Thibet will be taxed and otherwise dealt with similarly to the same class of goods imported by sea from other foreign countries. It is presumed that this is the intention of the sentence.

5. *Article 7.*—"In respect of goods exported." Insert the word "such" before "goods" as explained in the preceding paragraph.

6. *Article 10.*—"Acquire houses and godowns." I think this Article should be worded so as to give us such sites for the British Trade Agent and for our traders as are approved by the Government of India, and are entirely under our control on the lines that Mr. Chang has agreed to provide at Gyantse. The same objections pointed out by Mr. White with regard to the British Trade Agent's residence apply in a large measure also to traders' houses and godowns. We cannot depend on the Chinese or Thibetans to build them properly and without delay, to let them at reasonable rates (note the rent of 10 rupees per month charged for the small huts at Yatung) or to keep them in suitable repair. In this connection I would solicit reference to my letter dated the 28th November, 1906, reporting discussions between Mr. Chang and myself about the Gyantse trade mart. The advantages Mr. Chang has agreed to give us, as therein reported, should be incorporated in this Article in suitable terms, and the proposed agreement as regards the rest-houses should be adopted.

"They shall not be subjected to any tolls, cesses, or imposts of any kind in excess of, or other than, the duty mentioned in Articles 2 and 5." It should be noted that Mr. Chang has already agreed to this in my discussions with him. It is not laid down in the existing (Yatung) Trade Regulations.



7. *Article 13.*—"No monopolies of any kind." There are at present some such monopolies, namely, at Phari and elsewhere for the supply of paper and of rice. For the purchase of these articles—and there may be other articles also—the Thibetan Government has special officers, and nobody else is allowed to purchase. The Chinese and Thibetans will be unwilling to let these monopolies go, but the article should be retained in the draft. It will give us something to bargain with, and, if we agree to allow any monopolies, the latter should be clearly mentioned, as well as the place where each monopoly is allowed to be exercised.

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Inclosure 11 in No. 91.

*Lieutenant Baily to Government of India.*

*Chumbi, December 17, 1906.*

IN reply to your letter, dated the 16th October, 1906, I have the honour to submit the following remarks regarding the proposed Trade Regulations with Thibet:—

1. In Article 10 it should, I think, be made clear that sites will be provided for the British Trade Agency and for Indian traders to build on which shall meet with the approval of the Government of India, having regard to both commercial and military considerations, and that these sites shall be entirely under the control of the Government of India.

2. It should, I think, also be stated that the Government of India have the right to station an escort with the officers at each of the trade marts.

3. As the rest-houses have already been constructed by us, we should, if possible, retain control over them.

4. The Government of India should also have the right to keep up the roads between the trade marts and the frontier.

5. As the Chinese Government propose to move their Customs officer from Yatung to Pibitang, the British Trade Agency, instead of being at Yatung, should be on some suitable site near Chema, at the junction of the roads over the Jelap-la and Nathu-la.

6. The Chinese have made a formal protest against the Trade Registration Post at Pibitang. It should, I think, be stated that this is to remain and be worked on the present lines after the evacuation of the Chumbi Valley.

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Inclosure 12 in No. 91.

*Government of India to Captain O'Connor.*

*Fort William, January 21, 1907.*

I AM directed to forward herewith, for your information, the accompanying copy of a draft of the Thibet Trade Regulations which are to form the basis of the negotiations contemplated by Article III of the Anglo-Thibetan Convention, dated the 7th September, 1904, and to request that the Government of India may be furnished with any remarks you may have to offer on the subject, in addition to those contained in Lieutenant F. M. Baily's letter dated the 17th December, 1906.

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[7466]

No. 92.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 7.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of "Gyantse Diary" for the three weeks ending the 19th January, 1907.

*India Office, March 6, 1907.*

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## Inclosure 1 in No. 92.

*Diary of Captain O'Connor, British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for the week ending January 5, 1907.*

*December 30, 1906, Chumbi.*—Both motor cars were got into good working order to-day, thanks mainly to the exertions of Mr. Burnett, of the "Continental Electric Motor Company," who has joined me from Calcutta.

*December 31.*—Starting from Chumbi, about 10 A.M., Mr. Burnett and I drove the two cars for about three miles. We found the greatest difficulty in progressing at all, owing to the bad state of the roadway, and were finally brought to a standstill at the steep incline leading up past the Chinese village of Choten Karpo, thence the cars were pulled by coolies as far as the Lingmatang Plain. The road here runs along the hillsides, just above the plain, and we succeeded in driving the two cars as far as the northern end of the plain, but the roadway is dreadfully bad—all encumbered with loose stones and boulders, and full of holes and rough places—and I found that the forewheel of my little Peugeot car was badly damaged by the jolting it had received. From this on, any idea of driving was out of the question; so Mr. Burnett and I rode on to Gautsa leaving the cars to be pulled another mile or two by coolies.

*January 1, 1907, Gautsa.*—The coolies pulled the two cars to Gautsa before noon, and I had to send back the wheel of my car to Chumbi for repairs. The cars then were pushed on to near Dota—mine being lifted in front by coolies and pushed along on its two hind wheels.

Lieutenant Bailey and Major Drever, commanding the troops in the Chumbi Valley, joined us at Gautsa this evening.

*January 2.*—We overtook the cars on the road, and drove the Clement car the last 7 miles or so into Phari. Here again the roadway was very rough. We punctured one tyre badly and nearly had an accident descending one steep, stony piece of roadway.

At Phari I found my Thibetan clerk, Shabdung Lama, awaiting me. I gather from him, as I had expected, that the rumours regarding hostile military gatherings on the part of the Thibetans are quite without foundation; and the Thibetans themselves, he tells me, are quiet and contented enough. But every one has been disturbed and upset by Mr. Chang's arrival. This gentleman, it appears, began operations in Thibet by informing all and sundry that he had come from China with plenary powers to reorganize the Government of Thibet and to turn out the English, bag and baggage. Threats were fulminated against all who assisted or served us in any way, and the Thibetans were given to understand that all future dealings with the English must be by permission of, and through the medium of, the Chinese. This naturally had a disturbing effect, and the unfortunate Thibetans are distracted between terror of another British invasion and fear of their Chinese suzerains. The Lhasa Government, sitting consistently on the fence, as it had done ever since we withdrew from Lhasa in 1904, decline to commit themselves one way or the other, and refuse any definite orders to their local representatives. My clerk, who has recently visited Shigatse, brought me most friendly letters of greeting from the Tashi Lama, his Minister, and Tutor, and a pressing invitation to be present at the forthcoming New Year's festivities about the middle of February.

*January 3, Tuna.*—The Peugeot wheel was brought up and fitted on, and both cars got ready for the road.

*January 4.*—I drove in the Clement car to the foot of the rise to the Tang la, up which the car was pulled. This slope would present no difficulties to the car, but I was anxious to save it as much as possible. From the summit of the Tang la we drove to Tuna without any difficulty. It proved a most pleasant sensation travelling over this great plain, nearly 16,000 feet in elevation, and this mode of progression is a delightful contrast to the weary tramp or ride the long march to Tuna usually affords.

*January 5.*—We drove to-day to Kala (25 miles), halting at Dochen rest-house en route. The road throughout is good and quite easy, even the last few miles through the gorge leading from the Hram Tso to the Kala Tso having been so realigned and cleaned as to present no difficulties.



## Inclosure 2 in No. 92.

*Diary of Captain O'Connor, British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for the week ending January 12, 1907.*

*January 6, 1907, Kala.*—Marched from Kala to Kangma. I drove in my little Peugeot car all the way, and experienced no difficulty whatever. I halted at Samoda rest-house *en route*, and inspected the building.

*January 7, Kangma to Gyantse.*—I drove my Peugeot car again to-day. The road through the worst part of the Dzam-trang gorge is now in excellent order, and I drove the car through it without difficulty, but between the gorge and Saugong there is a long sandy stretch of half-a-mile or more, where we had to be helped through by coolies. My head sardar accompanied throughout, and I was able to point out to him exactly where the road requires realignment or repair to render it in all respects thoroughly fit for a motor car. After Saugong I drove along very fast, and was met about 6 miles from Gyantse by Lieutenant Auchinleck, commanding my escort, and Lieutenant Stewart, the Medical Officer at Gyantse. The son of the Nepalese Lieutenant, now stationed at Gyantse, also rode out a few miles to meet me. The Jongpens sent me a message to say they desired to come and pay their respects to me, and I requested them to call at noon the next day.

*January 8.*—The Jongpens called to see me at noon, and we had a long conversation. I began by saying how pleased I was to meet the senior one again (the other is a new acquaintance) after so long an absence, and that I felt sure we should continue as heretofore to conduct our mutual dealings in a satisfactory and friendly manner; that, as before, I should always refer to them for any assistance I required, and that I hoped they would not hesitate, as in the past, to lay before me any complaints they might receive from villagers or others regarding the conduct of employes in the British Trade Agency.

The Jongpens replied in a long complimentary speech. They first congratulated me on my return to Thibet, and expressed their pleasure at my arrival. They agreed with me that during my first year at Gyantse, and, indeed, until quite the other day, everything had worked very smoothly and satisfactorily, and that the British Trade Agent and the Jongpens had always remained upon the best of terms. Such minor complaints and difficulties as had from time to time been brought forward had always been arranged to the satisfaction of both parties. But they said that since the arrival of Mr. Chang upon the scene their position had become a very difficult one. Mr. Chang had informed them that he had come up with special powers to settle all matters outstanding, such as sites for trade marts, and so on, and that in future all questions between the English and Thibetans were to be referred to him or to his representative for decision.

On hearing this I affected great astonishment, and begged the Jongpens to repeat what they had just said, and in order to make their declaration more formal, I called in my head clerk, and interpreted to him their remarks.

They were a good deal abashed, but they repeated explicitly what they had said before. Yes, they said, such were Mr. Chang's orders. In future, the Chinese were to act as intermediaries between the English and Thibetans in all matters which cropped up. They were very sorry, but they were obliged to carry out Mr. Chang's orders, and in future, before complying with any request of mine, they would be obliged to ask permission of Mr. Gow, now at Gyantse.

On hearing this, I produced a copy of the Thibetan version of the Lhasa Convention, and showing them the seals, I asked them what seals those were upon the Treaty.

They replied: "The British Commissioner's seal and various Thibetan seals."

I asked them whether any Chinese seal was impressed upon the paper.

They replied that there was not.

I asked them to read through the Treaty and to let me know whether any mention was made in it of China or Chinese intervention.

After reading through the Convention they replied that there was not.

I then asked them whether they had heard of the Adhesion Convention, signed at Peking last April between Great Britain and China.

They replied that they had heard nothing definite about it, but that there was a rumour to the effect that China had insisted on Great Britain signing an Agreement to say that she acknowledged Chinese sovereignty over Thibet, and that in future she would only deal with Thibet through the medium of China.



I then read out to the Jongpens, in Thibetan, the first clause of the Peking Convention, wherein Great Britain and China agree to confirm the Lhasa Convention, and I pointed out to them that this latter Convention, far from being abrogated, was now more than ever binding upon the Thibetans.

To this they agreed, and asked me to give them a copy of the Peking Convention.

I instructed my Thibetan clerk to give them a copy of the Thibetan version of the first clause, which I had already prepared.

I then referred them to the Yatung Trade Regulations of 1893, pointing out to them that these were binding upon the Thibetans in virtue of clause 2 of the Lhasa Convention and Article IV of the Peking Convention, and I asked them whether they possessed any copy of the said Regulations.

They replied that they had no copy, but that they had heard of these Regulations, and would much like a copy.

In reply, I read to them, in Thibetan, extracts from clause 2 of the Yatung Trade Regulations, pointing out the right of British subjects to purchase native commodities, hire transport, &c., in conformity with local usage, and without any vexatious restrictions.

They replied that they had never realized all this, but that from the quotations I had given them it was quite clear how they ought to act. They begged me to excuse them if they acted wrongly in any way. They were only very small people, and found it exceedingly difficult to know how to conduct affairs in such circumstances. They had no desire to violate Treaty obligations, but, on the other hand, they dared not disobey the Chinese, whilst constant appeals to Lhasa for orders produced no reply whatever.

I commiserated with them upon their difficulties, but warned them at the same time that, as the official Representatives of the Lhasa Government, a considerable weight of responsibility rested upon their shoulders.

They then withdrew in considerable perturbation, and remained closeted with my Thibetan clerk for some two hours afterwards, copying out the clauses of the various Conventions to which I had referred them. They propose, so the clerk tells me, to write at once to Lhasa, again begging for some definite instructions.

January 9.—I rode up to the Jong with Major Drever and Lieutenant Auchinleck. The Jongpens received us hospitably, and while I was chatting to them, Major Drever and Lieutenant Auchinleck examined the Jong thoroughly. I proposed to say nothing here regarding the question of the defences of the Jong. I have already expressed my opinions fully on this point, but if expert military opinion is desired as to what buildings constitute defences (and some undoubtedly do so), Major Drever might perhaps be consulted. My conversation with the Jongpens was of a friendly unofficial nature, but I was unable to refrain from commenting upon the damage done to the property of persons who infringed Treaties, taking the Jong as a case in point.

We then paid a short visit to the monastery, where, as usual, I gave the monks a few rupees for a "general tea," as they term it.

At noon the Chinese magistrate called upon me. He is a pleasant old fellow, and an old friend of mine. Before Mr. Chang's arrival he was the only Chinese authority here, but he has of course now been quite eclipsed by Mr. Gow. He is a petty Chinese official of the old fashion—backward and ignorant, but very courteous and simple in his ways. After mutual compliments, he began, of his own accord, to talk of Mr. Gow. Gow, he says, is an ill-balanced hasty-tempered man, easily worried by small things, and prone to excite himself over trifles. "You know," he said to me, "you and I often settled up little matters here without any one being the wiser; but Gow telegraphs off to China about the least thing. I hope you won't attach much importance to his little ways" (I think he meant Gow not having called on me).

I replied that, as Mr. Gow and I were both Representatives of great Powers, it would be very absurd for either of us to excite ourselves over petty matters. We had far more serious things to occupy our minds, and I for one attached importance only to the larger issues.

He replied that he thought Gow had been spoiled by living always in civilized places. He was accustomed just to ring a bell to get anything he wanted. But here at Gyantse one might ring for a long time without getting anything at all, even the simplest necessities of life; Gow didn't like this, and it soured his temper.

After abusing Thibet heartily (an occupation always congenial to a Chinaman's *amour-propre*) and eulogizing our own countries, we parted on very friendly terms.

This Chinaman is of course a negligible quantity, but his remarks were interesting as showing his views regarding officials of the new régime.



In the afternoon the Nepalese Lieutenant came to see me. His interests here are very small, as the Newar traders at Gyantse are all small men, and, generally speaking, only visit here at intervals, residing mostly at Shigatse and Lhasa. He says that he called upon Mr. Chang during that gentleman's visit to Gyantse, and that Mr. Chang informed him that he was arranging to open a mart for Indian traders near the town, and he wanted to know if the Nepalese traders would attend it. The Nepalese Lieutenant replied that he would refer the question for orders to his own Government. Mr. Chang also informed the Nepalese Lieutenant that he was arranging to have all British troops sent back to India, and that only the telegraph office would be allowed to remain here.

*January 10.*—The Sikkim Raja's half-brother and son came to call on me this morning. We had a long friendly conversation, during which they repeated to me the prevalent rumour that the Chinese are going to send back the British escort to India, and that in future they are to be the intermediaries in all matters between us and the Thibetans. They say that that is now the general impression all over Thibet.

*January 11.*—The wire was reported to be interrupted to-day, and a repairing party which went out found that it had been cut some 18 miles from Gyantse.

A Thibetan gentleman named Kyi-Buk, holding the rank of Major in the Thibetan army, called on me to-day. This man had been appointed Thibetan Commissioner, ranking as a General, in the Chumbi Valley, just prior to our entry into the valley in December 1903. It was he who met us and begged us to go back whilst we were on our way to Yatung. We saw him frequently afterwards, and he was eventually wounded at the Guru fight, and I had not seen him since. He tells me he received three bullets into his person at the fight, but has now quite recovered. He was very friendly in his manner, and invited me to call upon him at his house in Gyantse, which I shall do in a few days.

*January 12.*—I went out with Major Drever and the other officers, and we shot some hares in the valley a few miles out.

(Signed) W. F. O'CONNOR.

*Inclosure 3 in No. 92.*

*Diary of Captain O'Connor, British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for the week ending January 19, 1907.*

*January 13, 1907.*—The son of the Nepalese Lieutenant called on me to-day.

*January 14.*—Major Drever left Gyantse for Chumbi, having completed his inspection duties here.

The two Jongpens called at 12 noon, and we went through all the rates now being paid for local produce, and adjusted such as required alteration. Generally speaking, I found them all very fair. I made a small increase in the price of firewood, grain, and grass; and a decrease in goats and yakdung. These rates I fixed for one month to be subject to revision at the end of that time. I again asked the Jongpens if they had any complaints to prefer against any employes of the British Trade Agency. They replied that they had none, and that if at any time such complaints should be presented they would bring them at once to my notice. They withdrew perfectly satisfied with the new rates, which err, if anything, on the high side.

*January 15.*—Nothing to report.

*January 16.*—I sent to ask the Nepalese Lieutenant whether it would be convenient to him if I called on him at 12 noon on the 18th.

*January 17.*—I received a note from Major Drever, written from Kala, to say that he had been caught in a blizzard while travelling from Kangma to Kala; that one of the sepoy with him was lost; and that his mule-driver had let his mules escape during the storm, and that his baggage was scattered all over the country.

*January 18.*—There was a slight fall of snow during the night.

I requested the Jongpens to send out one of their minor officials to Kala to assist Major Drever in recovering his lost property. This they at once did.

I fixed to-day with the Jongpens the rates of transport for the various kinds of transport animals for all stages between Gyantse and Phari, and also for the through journey. These rates are to hold good for one year from to-day.

I called on the Nepalese Lieutenant at his house in Gyantse at noon and had a pleasant conversation with him.



January 19.—I heard from Major Drever, from Phari, that all his lost property had been recovered, and that the missing sepoy had turned up safely. The party seem to have struck one of those spells of bad weather which one may always expect at this time of year.

(Signed) W. F. O'CONNOR.

[7486]

No. 93.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 7.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 31st January, relative to Thibet affairs.

*India Office, March 6, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 93.

*Extract from Translation of a Letter from the Nepalese Representative at Lhasa.*

THIRRING POCHI LAMA went on telling me that the other day the Kazies were sent for by the new Assistant Amba at Lhasa and were told that, in the first place, it was found necessary to keep a further number of 5,000 Chinese military troops in Thibet, out of which 3,000 would be stationed on the Digarcha side and 2,000 on the Lhasa side, and for this necessary and perfect arrangements should be made by the Thibet Government for the supply of rice and other provisions; secondly, a good road should be constructed through the Kham country; thirdly, the gold mines in Thibet should be discovered and worked to derive an income therefrom; fourthly, instead of exporting wool to Calcutta, Thibet should try to make her own cloths and blankets, &c., from it and exclude foreign cloths as far as possible—besides, the trade in musk and other principal articles of export should be placed in a proper footing, so as to be a source of income to the Government; fifthly, endeavours should be made to reclaim all the waste land in Thibet; sixthly, a census should be taken of all the monks in the different "gumbas" (monasteries), showing also the numbers of those that were useful members in them and those that were not; seventhly, the Thibet Government should arrange to carry from Thindafu to Lhasa the silver remitted from China to pay the salaries of the troops, and do away with the system of giving away the bullion to merchants by "Hundis"; and eighthly, better arrangements should be made in striking coins from the silver bullion received from China for the purpose mentioned above.

The Amba, after having given out the above eight proposals, asked the Kazies to take them to heart and to commence to move towards putting them into effect. The latter, saying nothing in reply, returned from the Amba's Yamoon and narrated the whole thing to him (Thirring Pochi Lama).

In that interview, as there were only three Kazies present, while the fourth, viz., Chharong Kazy, was absent on account of ill-health, the Amba marked his absence, and wanted to know the cause of the absence of one of the Kazies. On being told, in reply, that his absence was due to ill-health, the Amba retorted that if that were so the matter should have been brought to his notice beforehand. The Kazies, however, managed to pacify the Amba by saying that they expected that the absent Kazy would be well enough to be able to come to see the Amba, but that, contrary to their expectation, he was unable to join them as he continued to be unwell.

Unlike the old Amba, the new Assistant Amba to all intents and purposes seemed to be straightforward and strict in his work, but he (Thirring Pochi Lama) was inclined to believe that, in spite of all what the Chinese authorities at Lhasa might say of doing this thing or that as was vauntingly given out in the eight items enumerated above, China appeared to have no influence at all either over the British or other Europeans. Because the Chinese at Lhasa some time ago used to speak to the effect that since the Treaty made at Potala the year before the last was one virtually forced upon Thibet, and as that country belonged to China, the Government of latter country

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would make all necessary amendments and conclude a fresh Treaty, but the latest information on the subject, so far as was known to them, showed that all the points except one which was down in the old Treaty of Potala have been allowed to remain unaltered. If that was all which the Chinese have been able to do, the Thibetans might probably have done far better had they, in answer to the invitation received, gone down to meet the British Lathsahab from whom they had such bright promises, and so that evidently showed the Government of China have no influence over the British in Peking.

Now, with regard to what the new Assistant Amba had said about keeping an additional number of troops in Thibet and doing this thing or that, the Kazies entertained a suspicion that when more troops have been brought in, China, helpless as she had showed herself to be to resist any European Government, would possibly cause, as had been the case in China, the country of Thibet also to be filled with Europeans. An instance of this nature might be cited—the case of the Amba who was travelling to come down this side accompanied by a Frenchman. The people of Balithang refused to allow the Amba to take the Frenchman with him, as it would go against the tenets of the religion which the people of the country professed. A quarrel arose, in which the Amba lost his life, and ended in the devastation of the local monastery there. The Kazies therefore suspiciously looked upon the Chinese as an untrustworthy nation, and also thought that if the census of the monks in the monastery were taken as suggested, it was likely to do more harm than good. Moreover, although it was at first stated that the Chinese officer, Tang Tarin Amba, who was coming from Calcutta was vested with full authority to investigate and settle all the matters that concerned Thibet in connection with the British, and that he held the high rank of Chhawang Chhang Tathin, it has now appeared that he possessed no such power, and that he has to refer everything to His Majesty the Emperor of China before its final settlement. The influence of Europeans was apparently very great over China in Peking, and that being so, unless the power of the Emperor went on increasing, or the influence of China increased, there was no hope of any change for the better in all matters, while at the same time in Thibet itself signs were not wanting of internal dissensions amongst themselves which forbade no future good to the country, and it might also be safely asserted that Europeans would by every means in their power try to seek ingress in and fill the country.

All this, the Thirring Lama said, was the will of God, and that by His will all what was to happen would surely happen.

[7535]

No. 94.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 7.)*

Sir,

*India Office, March 7, 1907.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge the receipt of Sir E. Barrington's letter of the 28th ultimo, suggesting, in view of the evident reluctance of the Russian Government, that the proposal to include a prohibition of scientific missions in the Agreement now under consideration as to Thibet should be dropped, and that the prohibition at present placed on such missions by the Government of India should be withdrawn, so as to place all nations on an equal footing in the matter.

Mr. Morley is conscious of the invidiousness of the existing prohibition in India, but the primary object of the prohibition, I am to point out, was not to furnish a ground for objecting to Russian explorations, but to avoid an obvious occasion of friction and difficulty with the Lhasa Government, the ultimate result of which might even be to compromise the evacuation of the Chumbi Valley. The objection of the Lhasa Government to the presence of foreigners in Thibet is notorious; and, in Mr. Morley's opinion, it would be fraught with danger, even after the friction at present existing at Gyantse in connection with the opening of the trade marts has subsided, to rouse the suspicions and ill-will of the Thibetan Government by a request for passports for a scientific mission. Until there is some ground for thinking that such a request will be favourably considered, Mr. Morley would not be in favour of raising the question at Lhasa; nor is he in favour of dispensing with the permission of the Lhasa Government and allowing British explorers to enter Thibet, as Dr. Sven Hedin did, without authority from the Thibetans. This would in all probability expose them to the same difficulties that Dr. Sven Hedin has now encountered; and, in that event, Mr. Morley



considers it would be impracticable to refuse them help, even if, as suggested in Sir E. Barrington's letter, it had been made a condition of the permission given them to cross the frontier that they proceeded entirely at their own risk, and were not entitled to expect any intervention on their behalf by the British Government. The difficulty of refusing assistance, should it be asked for, is sufficiently shown by the fact that the "disagreeable and churlish position" which our Agent at Gyantse has been obliged to assume towards Dr. Sven Hedin in order to avoid intervention in what is a matter of the internal police of Thibet is referred to in Sir E. Barrington's letter as furnishing a reason why the present policy of prohibition should be abandoned by the Government of India.

Mr. Morley, for these reasons, regrets that, looking at the matter as one of Indian frontier policy, he cannot modify the views expressed in his Secret despatch to the Governor-General of the 1st June, 1906; but though an explicit understanding with Russia on the subject would facilitate the maintenance of the existing Indian frontier policy, Mr. Morley would certainly not desire the point to be pressed in a manner to imperil the Thibet Agreement as a whole. Sir A. Nicolson's telegram No. 33 of the 23rd ultimo reported a promise by M. Isvolsky to look into the matter and see whether the object we desire could not be attained by some other means than those proposed by us. Mr. Morley would suggest that M. Isvolsky's further observations should be awaited before the Russian Government are informed that, in deference to their wishes, we agree to the subject being dropped.

As regards the responsibility of China in respect of the northern frontier, Mr. Morley adheres to the view indicated in Sir H. Walpole's letter of the 20th ultimo, that some undertaking should, if possible, be obtained from the Chinese Government not to permit foreigners to enter Thibet from Chinese territory, so long as the Lhasa Government will not give properly accredited explorers due facilities. He would suggest that the attention of the Chinese Government should be called to the difficulty in which our Trade Agent at Gyantse has been placed by Dr. Sven Hedin's proceedings, and that they should be invited to take steps to prevent the recurrence of such difficulties in the future.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[7627]

No. 95.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 8.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 7th instant, relative to the obstructive tactics of Chinese officials in Thibet.

*Foreign Office, March 8, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 95.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Calcutta, March 7, 1907.*

O'CONNOR telegraphed, 5th instant, as follows:—

"I am now altogether cut off from personal intercourse with Thibetan officials, as Gow, who has renewed obstructive tactics, refuses to permit Jongpens' substitutes to see me. This has been admitted in writing by Jongpens' substitutes, and I have also received word from them privately that they dare not contravene Gow's instructions, and are helpless in the matter.

"Supplies on their way to us for Thibetan clerks' use have also been forcibly stopped by Chinese."

(Repeated to Peking.)



[6785]

No. 96.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, March 8, 1907.*

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 4th instant, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Peking respecting Sven Hedin's journey in Thibet.\*

I am to state that the Wai-wu Pu appear to have been misinformed as regards the alleged issue of a passport to the explorer. No such passport has been issued by this Department.

No communication has as yet been received from the Chinese Minister on the subject.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) ERIC BARRINGTON.

[7678]

No. 97.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 9.)*

(No. 41.)

Sir,

*Peking, January 22, 1907.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 7 of the 5th instant, and to my telegrams Nos. 9 and 10 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inclose translation of a note of the 12th instant, in which the Wai-wu Pu transmitted to me the text of two telegrams received from Chang Ta-jên on the subject of the complaints preferred in the Viceroy of India's telegrams of the 16th and 27th December.

Chang Ta-jên gives details of some arrangements which he alleges were made with a British officer in regard to supplies and transport, and asserts that no obstacles have been placed in the way of direct dealing between British and Thibetans at Chumbi or Gyantse. He further denies that he made any announcement that the date of the effective opening of the trade marts was the 14th November, 1906.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure in No. 97.

*Wai-wu Pu Secretaries to Mr. Campbell.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Peking, January 12, 1907.*

WITH reference to the Memorandum which you handed to this Board on the 1st January, on the subject of complaints made by the Government of India to the effect that the official appointed by Chang Ta-jên to reside at Gyantse and control trade relations there had claimed the right of acting as intermediary to all transactions between British officers and Thibetans, and had threatened to stop Thibetans from furnishing supplies to the British Trade Agent unless paid for at prices fixed by himself, we have the honour to inform you that the Board at once telegraphed to Chang Ta-jên for information.

On the 11th instant we received the following reply by telegraph :—

"Your telegram of the 3rd January received. On my way to Gyantse the Thibetans complained to me that the Indian sowars at Gyantse and Chumbi had been making irregular demands for transport and paying short for supplies. This being detrimental to the good name of the British troops, I had a satisfactory talk with Beverley [ ? ] on the subject. He agreed to issue orders forbidding such malpractices, and said that, while it was unavoidable, owing to the difference of language, that there should be difficulties from time to time, these could in future be discussed and settled harmoniously with the Chinese Trade Agent as they arose. The sowars would thus have no opportunity to act irregularly, while the price of supplies could also be notified



to the British authorities from time to time. All this was arranged to the entire satisfaction of both sides, and there was no prohibition or obstacle placed in the way of the British officers dealing direct with the Thibetans. From the time that trade started in the marts there has also been no instance of arbitrarily fixing the price of supplies. On these points I think that there has been some misunderstanding. But as Sir John Jordan has made representations to the Board, I have instructed the Deputy at Gyantse to report, and have told him to discuss and settle any question which may arise with the British authorities in a conciliatory spirit. I hope therefore that the Board will proceed to reply to Sir John Jordan for the information of the Government of India.

"Your telegram of the 4th January. When I received your telegram of the 24th December I notified the Government of India in writing that the opening of the trade marts dated from the 1st January, 1905, and asked to be informed of the British officers' names and ranks, but, from first to last, I have never made any announcement that the date in question was the 14th November, so on this point there is no rectification to be made. Dispatched on the 8th January."

We beg that you will be good enough to bring this to the knowledge of Sir John Jordan.

We avail, &c.  
(Signed) TSOU, LEI, AND CHU, *Secretaries.*

[6785]

No. 98.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 27.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, March 9, 1907.*

SVEN HEDIN.

Your telegram No. 35 of the 1st instant.

We have received no communication from the Chinese Minister on the subject, nor was any passport issued from this Office to Dr. Sven Hedin.

Please call the attention of the Wai-wu Pu to the difficult position in which the British trade agent at Gyantse has been placed by Sven Hedin's proceedings, and invite them to take the necessary measures to prevent a similar situation recurring.

We consider that the best plan, so long as due facilities to properly accredited explorers are refused by the Thibetan authorities, would be for the Chinese Government to prohibit foreigners from entering Thibet from Chinese territory.

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No. 99.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 33.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, March 9, 1907.*

NEGOTIATIONS respecting Thibet. Your telegram No. 33.

You may in argument point out to M. Isvolsky, whose further proposals for the exclusion of foreign missions from Thibet we are awaiting, that our anxiety to avoid complications which might compromise the evacuation of the Chumbi Valley is the reason why we desire to maintain the prohibition of the entry of scientific missions into Thibet.

It would be difficult for His Majesty's Government to carry out the engagement in regard to the Chumbi Valley in the face of public opinion if a British scientific mission were attacked or destroyed in Thibet.



[8182]

No. 100.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 13.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 12th instant, relative to the obstructive attitude of Chinese officials in Thibet.

*India Office, March 12, 1907.*


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Inclosure in No. 100.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Calcutta, March 12, 1907.*

THIBET. See my telegram dated the 7th instant. O'Connor telegraphed, 7th instant, as follows:—

“Point-blank refusal of local authorities to deal directly with me in any matter, while referring me to Gow as proper person under Regulations of 1893, clause 6, for me to communicate with, has resulted in complete deadlock here.”

Trade Agent states that he is ready to take necessary steps to protect British subjects and employes and to safeguard British interests, in the event of any disturbance occurring.

Seeing that Trade Regulations of 1893 must be interpreted in the light of Lhasa Convention, and of the history of the Mission and events that have occurred subsequently, reference to Article 6 is mere quibble. Direct dealing with Lhasa Government about these questions was rendered necessary for us by failure of Chinese to secure Thibetan compliance with 1890 Convention and 1893 Regulations; and unless more conciliatory and accommodating attitude is evinced by Chinese authorities, their recognition in Thibet will be very difficult.

Chang's letter of 17th January remains unanswered in accordance with your instructions, as also his telegram of 9th ultimo, in which attention to this was invited. Though we beg that Thibetan Government may appoint their Representative in direct communication with us, we are quite ready, when appointment is made, to discuss revision of Trade Regulations. If Thibetan Representatives are appointed by Chinese, arrangements may, as was done in the case of Regulations of 1893, be repudiated *in toto* by Lhasa Government.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[8181]

No. 101.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 13.)*

(No. 45.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Peking, March 12, 1907.*

PLEASE refer to your telegram No. 27 of the 9th instant on the subject of Thibet.

In communicating the substance of this telegram to the Wai-wu Pu to-day, I suggested that the course mentioned in the last paragraph should be adopted.

The Wai-wu Pu pointed out that the wide extent of uninhabited frontier made the task of preventing foreigners from entering Thibet from Chinese territory peculiarly difficult, but they promised to do their utmost to prohibit them from doing so in the future; they appreciated the awkwardness of the position in which our Trade Agent had been placed.

The above has been repeated to his Excellency the Viceroy of India.

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[8262]

No. 101\*.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 14.)*

(No. 46.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Peking, March 13, 1907.*

THIBET. Please see your telegram No. 15 of the 30th January.

A long Memorandum was given to me yesterday by the Wai-wu Pu; in it was incorporated a despatch, based on a written Report from Gow, and forwarded by Chang by post. The Report supplies details of irregular proceedings on the part of the Thibetan servants of the Gyantse British Agency, which formed the subject of correspondence on the 21st and 22nd November between Gow and the Agent. Arrangements were made to hold an inquiry on the 23rd November, at which the groom and comprador of the Agent were convicted of using threats of violence, and thereby extorting supplies.

In view of the small size of Gyantse hamlet and the scantiness of supplies, certain arrangements were proposed by Gow, which, however, the Agent did not adopt; and on the Thibetan officials being required to supply men and horses for the journey of "the foreign doctor, dispatched to carry out compulsory vaccination in four villages," a protest was lodged by Gow.

Examination of the despatch from Chang, and the Report by Gow, has convinced the Wai-wu Pu that direct communication between the British Agent and the Thibetans has not been forbidden by Gow, whose sole motive has been the desire to maintain friendly relations. The Chinese Government request that instructions may be sent to the Agent to transact business matters in an amicable manner.

I have repeated the above to His Excellency the Viceroy of India.

[8374]

No. 102.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 15.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 12th March, relative to the obstructive attitude of Chinese officials in Thibet.

*India Office, March 14, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 102.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, March 12, 1907.*

THIBET. Your telegram of to-day.

What is needed is to work through Chinese Government. I should be glad to know what are measures O'Connor proposes to take, and trust he will do nothing without reference to you.

[8262]

No. 103.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 33.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, March 15, 1907.*

CHINESE official at Gyantse.

His Majesty's Consul must insist firmly on the right of direct communication between the local Thibetan authorities and the British Agent at Gyantse, and you should urge the Chinese Government to send very clear instructions to Chang in this sense.



You should also point out to the Wai-wu Pu that the statement in the last paragraph of your telegram No. 46 of the 13th March is in contradiction with the substance of Captain O'Connor's telegram of the 7th March.

The attitude of the British Agent must naturally depend upon whether the Chinese and Thibetan officials comply fully with the Treaty stipulations of their respective Governments towards Great Britain.

[8609]

No. 104.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 18.)*

(No. 133.)

*St. Petersburg, March 13, 1907.*

Sir,

I INQUIRED of M. Isvolsky to-day whether I might expect to receive before long his proposals as to the mode of prohibiting scientific missions from proceeding to Thibet. His Excellency said that he was not yet in a position to give them to me, and he observed, with a sigh, that the question caused him much perplexity and trouble. I did not repeat the arguments which I have already employed, and I said no more on the subject, as it was clear that the moment was not favourable for pressing him.

The question of prohibiting scientific missions from proceeding to Thibet is one on which I hardly venture to express an opinion, but I trust that I may be permitted to make one or two observations on the subject. I am sure that I shall have great difficulty in inducing M. Isvolsky to agree to a general prohibition, even for a specified term of years. He evidently hesitates to face the odium which he will occur, and, apart from this personal feeling, I sincerely believe that he has some difficulty in justifying to his own mind the necessity or policy of formally and publicly recording an interdict on scientific expeditions. He clearly sees that for the present there are objections to scientific missions attempting to travel in Thibet, and he would be prepared, as far as lay in his power, to dissuade or even to endeavour to prevent such missions from being organized within Russian territory. But the matter does not rest with him alone. He has to win the consent of his colleagues and of other authorities to such missions being prohibited, and herein he considers that he will encounter great difficulties.

On the other hand, I presume that the chief reasons which move His Majesty's Government to require a suspension of scientific exploration are:—

1. That they might, from the Russian side, cover the transaction of business other than scientific; and
2. That they might meet with misfortunes and raise complicated questions with the Thibetan authorities.

As I ventured to submit in a previous despatch, in connection with another matter, if the Russian authorities desire, behind the Convention, to manipulate the Thibetan authorities or natives, they will have ample opportunities of doing so in far less ostensible a manner than any scientific mission would afford. As to the misfortunes which might befall a mission, the Russian authorities would, apart from representations to the Chinese authorities, and possible requests for punishment or reparation, be unable to exercise any direct pressure on Thibet itself. A disaster to a Russian mission could not, in itself, lead to any direct intervention by the Russian Government in Thibetan affairs. In short, I would respectfully submit whether the present or prospective exigencies of the situation demand that in regard to scientific missions we should continue to insist upon the Russian Government giving the undertaking which we are now requiring of them, or whether we could content ourselves with an undertaking that they should apprise us of the contemplated departure of a mission, and if they were not in a position to prevent it, that they would impress on the members of the mission that the expedition must be performed at their own risks and peril.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.



[8584]

No. 105.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 18.)*

(No. 45.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*St. Petersburg, March 17, 1907.*

IN the second paragraph of Article II of the Thibet Convention the French translation says that Russian and British Buddhists may enter into direct relations with the Thibetan authorities; in the English text the word "direct" is omitted. The word may have been inserted to show that the intermediary of the Chinese Government is not necessary to such relations. Shall I ask for the omission of the word "direct" from the French version or insert it in the English text?

[8609]

No. 106.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 40. Secret.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, March 19, 1907.*

PROHIBITION of scientific expeditions to Thibet.

Please see your despatch No. 133 of the 13th instant.

For the present, it will be better not to refer to the question of scientific expeditions unless reopened by M. Isvolsky. We prefer to await the new proposals which he has promised to make before discussing any alternative.

[9212]

No. 107.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 21.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of Thibet Frontier Confidential Reports, No. 65, dated the 21st January, 1907, and No. 66, dated the 4th February, 1907.

*India Office, March 20, 1907.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 107.

*Lieutenant Bailey to Mr. White.*

(Confidential.)

*Chumbi, January 21, 1907.*

*Chinese officials.*—It is possible that the Chinese Customs Officer will be posted at Gyantse, and not in the Chumbi Valley, after Mr. Henderson has left.

Mr. Chang is expected to leave Lhasa about the 20th February (after the Chinese New Year), and Mr. Henderson proposes to meet him on his arrival in Gyantse, where Mr. Chang intends to settle the Trade Regulations before returning to China via Calcutta. Mr. Henderson will return to the Chumbi Valley about the 1st April to meet Mr. Cheung, the Chinese official, who is to replace him, and hopes to return to India with Mr. Chang.

Thibetans from Shigatse report that if Mr. Chang can make a satisfactory arrangement with the Government of India, Gow will be withdrawn from Gyantse.

*Lhasa news.*—The price of Indian goods in Lhasa is falling owing to the large quantity collected there. Wool and yak tails are also cheaper in Lhasa now.

The trade in brick tea from China is reviving now that peace has been restored in Batang.

*Visitors.*—Mr. Burnett, who went with Captain O'Connor's motor cars to Gyantse, arrived here on the 15th, and left on the 16th.

[1722]

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*Memorandum dated Chumbi, January 21, 1907.*

Copy submitted to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department for information.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 107.

*Lieutenant Bailey to Mr. White.*

(Confidential.)

*Camp Gangtok, February 4, 1907.*

*Mr. Chang.*—Mr. Chang has had Yu Tai, the former Amban, arrested. Some of his baggage, which had been sent on the road to China, has been taken back to Lhasa and detained there. Two Shaps (said to be Yutok and Sechung), the Tang Me Depon, Mr. Sung, ex-Popon of Chumbi, and other officials, have also been arrested. It is rumoured that Teling Kusho will be made a Shape, as he is in favour with Mr. Chang. He is notoriously anti-British. Meru Gyalwa Depon, who is the Thibetan official appointed to arrange for Mr. Chang's supplies, &c., is also in favour. Mr. Chang on one occasion sent for the Ti-Rimpoche, and on his arrival kept him waiting a whole day in the kitchen. Mr. Chang is punishing or insulting any one who is considered friendly towards us, and is showing favour to our enemies. The Shata Shape who is living (at?) Kongdu, some days' journey east of Lhasa, has been sent for. This man was some years ago thrown into the fountain at Darjeeling (see Landon's "Lhasa," Vol. II, p. 4), and is naturally anti-British.

Mr. Chang, on his arrival in Lhasa, ordered several stocks to be made for criminals, and all Thibetan and Chinese officials in Lhasa are in great fear of imprisonment.

Mr. Chang has sent a Thibetan official to make inquiries regarding trade at Shigatse and Gyantse. It is believed that Chang wishes to make a Government monopoly of the wool trade.

Mr. Chang had a box placed in Lhasa Bazaar, where any one can place petitions which they wish brought to his notice.

*Mr. Henderson.*—Mr. Henderson leaves Chumbi on the 17th for Gyantse, where he expects to settle the Trade Regulations.

*Chinese officials in the Chumbi Valley.*—The new Tunling Tso Chung took over charge on the 29th January.

Small-pox is raging in Bhutan. Snow is falling daily in Chumbi.

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*Memorandum, dated Calcutta, February 15, 1907.*

A copy of the foregoing Report is forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

(Signed) F. M. BAILEY, *Lieutenant,  
Assistant Political Officer, Chumbi.*

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[9232]

No. 108.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 21.)*

Sir,

*India Office, March 20, 1907.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to transmit, for Sir E. Grey's information, a copy of a telegram from the Government of India, dated the 13th March, proposing that all Chinese passing into Thibet from India should be required, in accordance with the provisions of the law, Regulation V of 1873, to obtain passes for the purpose, in the same manner as British and European travellers.

Subject to Sir E. Grey's concurrence, Mr. Morley proposes to agree.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.



[9222]

No. 106\*.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 21.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 14th ultimo, relative to Thibet affairs.

*India Office, March 20, 1907.*


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Inclosure 1 in No. 106\*.

*Government of India to Trade Agent, Gyantse.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Calcutta, January 28, 1907.*

SEE your letter of the 9th instant.

It is assumed that information as to Chinese action at Lhasa, reported in your telegram of the 24th instant, is corroborated. This being so, is visit to Shigatse still advisable in your opinion? In event of visit being paid, would it not be necessary that Tashi Lama should be secured against annoyance or worse on the part of the Chinese?

(Repeated to Political Officer, Sikkim.)

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Inclosure 2 in No. 106\*.

*Trade Agent, Gyantse, to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Gyantse, January 29, 1907.*

SEE your telegram of the 28th instant.

All principal particulars of my informant's news are corroborated. Following are my views regarding visit to Shigatse: Tashi Lama has received word from Chang that no further visits of British officers to Shigatse will be permitted by Chinese. I have received letter inquiring as to truth of this from Lama. I am of opinion that no good results can be produced by our refraining from visits owing to high-handed action of Chinese at Lhasa, and our refraining will be ascribed to adverse influence of Chinese. On the contrary, if visit is now paid it will prove the falseness of Chang's boasting and will involve us no further with Lama or Lama with us; whereas if, as has before been pointed out by me, our moral support is what Lama chiefly requires, he will, I hope, remain fairly secure from molestation as long as he is sure of this; but he would not be safe for a moment if it were understood that our countenance had been withdrawn from him. I think, therefore, that we may testify by occasional visits our policy of uninterrupted friendliness towards Lama, which should, in my opinion, be maintained for the present on previous footing of social, not political, nature. Whether it will be necessary to extend this policy the future will show.

(Repeated to Political Officer, Sikkim.)



Inclosure 3 in No. 106\*.

*Trade Agent, Gyantse, to Political Officer, Sikkim.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Gyantse, February 5, 1907.*

ALL information from Lhasa has been confirmed by Mr. Mo Ping Ko and Young, cousin of Mr. Chang, who called on me on their return yesterday to Gyantse from Lhasa. Mo Ping Ko recently came to Thibet as Chinese Agent at Gartok; both were on their way to China, owing to Young's health. One Thibetan Shape has been degraded, together with late Amban and thirteen members of his staff. According to Mo Ping Ko, Henderson will come here shortly and will then arrange Trade Regulations in conjunction with Gow, but Chang will not return to Gyantse for two or three months. Two days ago both Gyantse Jongpens left hurriedly, having been summoned to Lhasa.

(Repeated to Secretary, Foreign Department, Calcutta.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 106\*.

*Government of India to Trade Agent, Gyantse.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Calcutta, February 8, 1907.*

FOREIGN Secretary has received following letter, dated Lhasa, January 17, from Chang:—

"I have the honour . . . . exchanged between them."

I request that you will find out and inform me by telegraph whether any Thibetans are included among officials named by Chang, and, if so, which they are.

(Repeated to Political Officer, Sikkim.)

Inclosure 5 in No. 106\*.

*Trade Agent, Gyantse, to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Gyantse, February 10, 1907.*

SEE your telegram of the 8th instant. I have ascertained, after making inquiry, that all the officials mentioned in Chang's letter to Foreign Secretary are Chinese. There are no Thibetans among them.

(Repeated to Political Officer, Sikkim.)



## Inclosure in No. 108.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 13, 1907.

THIBET. If you see no objection, we propose, now that all of Mr. Chang's Mission has passed through, that compliance with requirements of ordinary law [of] Bengal Frontier Crossing Regulations, under which pass must be obtained before crossing the inner line by all persons other than Thibetans and Indians, should be required of Chinese using Chumbi route. Watching of all Chinese going up is rendered very desirable by Lhasa report that Chinese drill sergeants for Thibetan troops are being imported by this route.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[9216]

No. 109.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 21.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of Gyantse diary, for the two weeks ending the 2nd February, 1907.

*India Office, March 20, 1907.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 109.

*Captain O'Connor to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Gyantse, January 29, 1907.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose my diary for the week ending on the 26th January, 1907.

Would you be so kind as to send me two printed copies, and also to forward one copy each to the Political Officer, Sikkim, and Assistant Political Officer, Chumbi?

Inclosure 2 in No. 109.

*Diary kept by Captain O'Connor for the week ending January 26, 1907.**January 20, 1907.—Nothing to report.*

*January 21.—*I drove my little motor-car through a part of the Gyantse bazaar and brought it round on to the Lhasa road. Large crowds assembled and watched my progress with great interest.

*January 22.—*I drove the car out some 6 or 7 miles along the Lhasa road and paid a call on the Sikkim Raja's relations at Teling. As usual, I was most hospitably received, and spent an hour chatting with them. The road is quite level throughout, and only wants a little bridging here and there to make it a first-class road for motoring.

I received a letter from Major Jit Bahadur, the Nepalese Representative at Lhasa, congratulating me on my return to Thibet.

*January 23.—*The steward of the Gabshi estate called on me to-day. He apologized for not coming to see me before, but explained that he had only just returned from visiting his wife's relations, who live between here and Shigatse.

An agent from Lhasa brought me the following news, the more important items of which I have already reported by telegram:—

He says that on the 11th January the three Chinese dignitaries at Lhasa, Yu-tai, the former Amban, the new Amban (whose name I have not ascertained correctly), and Mr. Chang, the High Commissioner, gave an elaborate entertainment; on the 12th Yu-tai sent off his baggage to China, and handed over his seals of office; and on the 13th, just as he was preparing to start homewards himself, he was arrested by the other two, chains were fastened to his neck and wrists, and he was placed in close



custody in charge of the Chinese Magistrate in a house near the Yamên, and at the same time the former Chumbi and Shigatse Popons and two other Chinese officials (whom the Thibetans call Ra-mo-che Tungling and Ja-ko-che) were degraded.

Amban Yu's baggage was recalled to Lhasa, sealed up, and taken charge of by Chang and the new Amban.

Yu's Secretary (whom we knew well at Lhasa, and who was a regular go-between between us and Yu) apparently got wind that there was trouble in the air, for he had already made his escape to his friend Duki Lhalu's house (where the Mission lived whilst at Lhasa) and fled thence to the north as far as Daur on the Mongol road; here, however, he was overtaken and caught, and dragged back in a sorry plight to Lhasa. He, too, has been chained and imprisoned.

Chang has put up a sort of letter-box in a public place in Lhasa in which complaints against us or Chinese officials may be posted secretly.

The new Amban has only got three modern-drilled soldiers with him, and they are exercising the Thibetan soldiers daily in modern drill. These soldiers have been promised good pay as soon as they have mastered their work.

The new Amban has 300 modern rifles with him, and has also taken over some rifles given by Sir Francis Younghusband to Yu.

All the armament (guns, swords, powder, &c.) which was formerly stored in the Drepung Monastery has been carried secretly by night to the Government storehouses in Lhasa. Rumour says that the Sechung Shape (who visited Calcutta last year) is to be degraded, and the former Shatra Shape recalled. Shatra Shape, it will be remembered, visited Darjeeling in the train of the Amban during the negotiations regarding the 1890 Convention, and was disgraced and degraded some three to four years ago by the Dalai Lama.

A Thibetan named Ly-u-shar, a Ken-chen by rank (I will describe this official's position later, if necessary), is said to have been ordered to hold himself in readiness to act as the Representative of the Lhasa Government in negotiations with us.

But by far the most prominent and picturesque personage at present figuring in Thibetan politics is the Teling Depon, who has persistently opposed us since we first reached Khamba Jong in the summer of 1903. Having mastered all the details of British military organization and equipment during his frequent visits to our camp at Khamba Jong, he represented himself to the Lhasa authorities as the one man capable of getting them out of their difficulties and of expelling the foreigners from their country. He was promptly given the rank of Brigadier-General, and from that moment waged active and unceasing war upon us. It was he who organized the night attack on the Mission, which so nearly succeeded in its object, and who afterwards commanded the Thibetan troops in the Jong during the whole period for which we were invested here. When the Jong was taken he escaped by a back exit, and has boasted ever since that he cut his way out through a host of English soldiers, leaving the way strewn with dead and dying behind him. He has now been confirmed in his rank of General, and enjoys a prodigious reputation throughout Thibet as a warrior and military organizer.

Such, in brief, is the story of this man, and, burlesque as the whole circumstances may appear, he is a factor in Thibetan politics not to be disregarded. My informant tells me that he is now by far the most influential personage in Lhasa. That he never stirs abroad without a following of sixty persons, thirty armed with modern and thirty with old-fashioned rifles, and that he quite dominates the National Assembly. He constantly boasts of his exploits during the last campaign against us, laments that he did not have a fair chance from the beginning, and strongly urges a renewal of hostile tactics.

This man's attitude, so my informant says, is indicative of the state of mind of the larger part of the people and Government of Lhasa. Ever since Mr. Chang has appeared on the scene a feeling of unrest has prevailed, and there is a very general impression abroad that the issues between us and the Thibetans are far from being closed. The power of the three great Lhasa monasteries, always bitterly hostile to us, was never broken or even affected by our Mission to Lhasa, and they cherish a resentment not sufficiently tempered by fear.

As to the Tashi Lhumpo people they have not yet come under the ban of Chinese displeasure, but it is confidently anticipated that Chang is only biding his time, and that either he, or some other high Chinese official, will shortly visit Shigatse with the object of holding a searching inquiry into the circumstances which led to the visit to India, and of punishing the persons found primarily responsible for it. Hitherto the



Tashi Lama and his officials, influenced no doubt by the belief that we shall not allow them to suffer from Chinese vengeance, whilst showing every courtesy to Chang, have maintained an attitude of comparative independence towards Chinese authority. But, judging from the high-handed nature of Mr. Chang's present proceedings, it would appear highly improbable that they will be permitted to remain unmolested. Such, at any rate, is the prevalent impression up here.

*January 24 and 25.*—Nothing to report.

*January 26.*—I heard a rumour to-day that the Tangme Depon, one of the principal Thibetan officials, has been degraded by Chang and the Amban for some alleged slight towards the Chinese. I will relate the details later if I have them confirmed.

(Signed) W. F. O'CONNOR, *Captain,*  
*British Trade Agent at Gyantse.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 109.

*Captain O'Connor to Government of India.*

*Gyantse, February 8, 1907.*

THE accompanying diary is submitted to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department for information.

Inclosure 4 in No. 109.

*Diary of Captain O'Connor for the week ending February 2, 1907.*

*January 27, 1907.*—I received a private letter from the Tashi Lama, in which the Lama says that his Agent at Lhasa has just sent him word to say that, in a conversation with Mr. Chang, Mr. Chang had stated that in future no British officers would be permitted by the Chinese to visit Tashi Lhumpo; and the Lama was anxious to know whether or no this was true. I sent a reply by the Lama's messenger to the effect that the visits of British officers to Shigatse were regulated by instructions from the British Government.

*January 28.*—The regular Lhasa Agent of the Tashi Lama arrived to-day at Gyantse from the Chumbi Valley. He called upon me and we had a short conversation. He has expressed himself as perfectly willing to supply me regularly with information from Lhasa, provided the Tashi Lama consents.

An official named Lyu Shar, a Ken-chen by rank, arrived to-day at Gyantse. He is said to have been appointed by the Lhasa Government as their Representative here. A Ken-chen, I may explain, is an ecclesiastical officer, who, having held office under the Lhasa Government, has retired from active service on receipt of the honorary title of "Ken-chen" or "Ken-de-che-ga." Such officers are generally men selected for abilities of one kind or another, and are often employed upon important missions and other duties—for example, Dorjief is a "Ken-de-che-ga," and is always known as such in Thibet. This man, I hear, is strongly anti-British, and is especially hostile to the Tashi Lama.

*January 29.*—I heard to-day a confirmation of the rumour that Yu-tok, the senior of the four Shapes, has been degraded and deprived of all office, and it is said that Sechung will shortly follow the same downward path. The Shape wielding chief influence just now is Tsa-rong (who, as a Depon or General, met us first at Khamba Jong in 1903), who is a quiet, sensible man, rather delicate physically, but with a good head on his shoulders.

*January 30.*—Nothing to report.

*January 31.*—Further reports from Lhasa regarding the degradation of Yutok Shape and a Depon called Tang-me.

*February 1.*—Nothing to report.

*February 2.*—The steward of the Dong-tse estate called on me to-day, and we had a friendly chat about the present state of affairs in Thibet. He has been away on a visit or he would have called before.

I received a letter to-day from the Ti-Rimpoche from Lhasa in reply to a communication from me informing him of my return to Gyantse, and expressing a hope



that all was well at Lhasa. After the usual formal compliments the Ti-Rimpoche says that all is well at Lhasa, and he adds that possibly I may not have heard that a Treaty was sealed at Peking last April (he gives the English date) between Great Britain and China, modifying the Treaty made between Great Britain and Thibet. This somewhat ambiguous remark was clearly written at Chinese dictation, and proves that the Lhasa Government are now under the impression that the Peking Convention has either superseded, or at any rate modified, the Lhasa Convention. I have already suggested that a communication from the Indian Government to Lhasa, forwarding a translation of the Peking Convention, would dispel any erroneous impressions now existing amongst the Thibetans on the subject.

The Thibetan Delegate, Lyu Shar, has not as yet called upon or taken any notice whatever of me. I hear he is unwell himself, but this does not excuse his gross want of manners in ignoring the presence here of a Representative of the Indian Government. Hitherto, any Thibetan official arriving here has always hastened to call upon the British Trade Agent.

I have started a gang of men working on the sandy portion of the road this side of the Red Idol Gorge, and hope to effect a considerable improvement there before the end of the financial year.

(Signed) W. F. O'CONNOR, *Captain,*  
*British Trade Agent at Gyantse.*

[9417]

No. 110.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 23.)*

(No. 52.)

Sir,

*Peking, January 30, 1907.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Goffe, Acting British Consul-General at Ch'eng-tu, inclosing a translation of the Regulations drawn up by Chao Erh Feng for the future administration of Batang.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

*Acting Consul-General Goffe to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 82 A.)

Sir,

*Ch'eng-tu, December 29, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Chinese text and précis translation of the Regulations drawn up by Chao Erh Feng for the future administration of Batang. Although dated the 6th April of this year, they are only now being issued. They are also published in the Batang dialect, but I have not been able to obtain a copy of this text as they have been already forwarded to Ta Chun-lu.

It is interesting to note that, while Article 40 warns the tribesmen against the evil effects of smoking opium, a habit to which they are not much addicted, no mention is made of any prohibition of the sale of the drug.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) HERBERT GOFFE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 110.

*{ Regulations for the future Administration of Batang.*

(Précis Translation.)

1. THE Head T'u Ssu and the Assistant T'u Ssu having been beheaded, the office of T'u Ssu is hereby abolished for ever. Both the Chinese and the tribesmen of Batang are henceforth subjects of the Emperor of China, and subject to the jurisdiction of Chinese officials.

2. Henceforth the district of Batang, together with the Chinese and tribesmen



resident therein, will be under the administration of Chinese officials, who will collect the land tax, discharge judicial functions and superintend the provision of transport for the Imperial Commissioners.

3. Provides for the abolition of various small official posts among the tribesmen.

4. Provides for the abolition of "squeezes" on the occasion of an Imperial Commissioner passing through the district.

5. Provides for the election of a Headman for each village, or collection of small villages, who shall receive an annual salary of three tons of oats, to be paid by the village or villages concerned. He shall be elected for three years, but shall be eligible for re-election. The villagers may, however, remove him from office at any time if he acts unjustly, and elect another in his place.

6. Each district official shall have attached to his *yamên* three Chinese and three native *tipaos*, to be paid by the official, who will jointly be responsible for the collection of the land tax and the hearing of law-suits. All six *tipaos* must know both the Chinese and Thibetan languages.

7. Provides for the payment of land tax on all land cultivated by Chinese and tribesmen, priests and laymen alike. The amount of the tax to be proportionate to the fertility of the land, which is divided into three classes, to pay respectively 40, 30, and 20 per cent. of the total yield as land tax.

8. Provides for an additional tax to be paid in lieu of furnishing "*wula*." Officials will in future pay for any transport required.

9. Provides for the payment of land tax on temple lands, whether farmed by the lamas themselves or leased to tenants.

10. Provides for the time of paying the land tax. On land which yields two crops it is to be paid in the sixth and ninth moons, and on that yielding only one crop, in the tenth moon.

11. Taxes are to be paid in Thibetan rupees. Payment in kind is no longer permissible.

12. Lands confiscated during the recent uprising, and leased out by the officials, will pay 50 per cent. of the yield as land tax.

13. Provides for official assistance, in the shape of food and seed, to persons willing to reclaim waste lands. Such land will be held under perpetual lease from the officials, but tenants found guilty of any criminal offence will be liable to ejection.

14. Provides for the abolition of the custom of making annual donations in kind to the lamas and T'u Ssu. The land tax and the tax in lieu of the provision of "*wula*" are the sole dues to which the people are liable.

15. All are subjects of the Emperor of China, and are forbidden to style themselves subjects of the lamas or of the T'u Ssu. Cultivators of temple lands may style themselves lamas' tenants, but in all matters they are subject to the jurisdiction of the Chinese officials only.

16. Lamas are not to interfere in any way with the administration of the district by the Chinese authorities.

17. All law-suits, whether the parties concerned are Chinese or Thibetans, priests, laymen, or Christians, will be decided by the Chinese local authorities.

18. Provides for the abolition of the custom of compounding a charge of murder by payment of compensation to the relatives of the deceased. All capital charges must be tried by the officials.

19. Cases of highway robbery will be punished with death, irrespective of the question whether any one has been killed or not.

20. Provides for the punishment of cases of robbery from a house.

21. Provides for the punishment of cases of adultery and rape.

22. Common cases will be decided by the officials as justice requires.

23. The plaintiff and defendant in a law-suit each to pay a fee of 3 rupees, which shall cover all expenses.

24. Provides for the payment of expenses attendant upon serving a summons on the defendant in an action.

25. Provides for the time within which a summons is returnable.

26. The date of receiving the summons to be noted thereon by the Headman of the village where the defendant resides.

27. Provides for the cancelling of a case in the event of the plaintiff not entering an appearance within three days of the date on which the summons is returnable.

28. Provides for the issue of a further summons to defendant in case of adjournment owing to plaintiff giving good reason for not being able to appear on specified day.



29. All expenses of issuing summons, copying evidence, &c., to be comprised in the fee of 6 rupees mentioned in Article 22.

30. Ting Ling Ssu having been razed to the ground, orthodox temples shall be constructed by the officials, but no others shall be allowed. Lamas shall not be permitted to reside in these temples. Those lamas who took no part in the late disturbances may continue to reside in the country villages, and such of them as wish to shall be permitted to quit their habit.

31. The law fixes the number of lamas to each temple at 300, but in many instances this limit has been exceeded. It is, however, impossible to reduce their numbers at once. A register shall, therefore, be kept of the names and ages of the lamas in each temple, and in future no further candidate for the priesthood shall be received in those temples whose number already exceeds 300. In this way in ten years' time the legal limit will not be exceeded.

32. After expatiating on the gross ignorance of the tribesmen which led to the murder of Feng Ta Ch'en and the French priests, with its terrible consequences, announces in the near future the establishment of a Government school, which all boys from the age of 5 or 6 years will have to attend. Detailed regulations will be published later.

33. Provides for the abolition of the barbarous methods of burial practised by the tribesmen, the bodies of whose parents and relatives are, it is pointed out, disposed of in the same degrading manner as those of the worst criminals in China. The article lays stress on the inefficacy of the prayers recited by the lamas, in support of which is adduced the fact of the Dalai Lama, himself a living Buddha, having been defeated by foreign troops and forced to fly for his life.

34. The inhabitants of Batang are all subjects of the Emperor of China, and must conform to the laws of the Empire. In future every man must shave his head and wear the queue; no one will be permitted to have his hair in the dishevelled state hitherto the custom, which makes men resemble living demons.

35. Inculcates habits of cleanliness.

36. Adoption of Chinese dress to be optional.

37. Men and women are urged to wear trousers in the interests of morality. Although this reform is optional in the case of adults, it is compulsory in the case of children of both sexes.

38. Each family to take a surname.

39. Provides for the abolition of slavery.

40. Advises the tribesmen not to take to smoking opium, the evils of which are fully set forth.

41. Provides for the scavenging of the streets.

42. In future cemeteries to be established in low-lying unfrequented places, and not on high ground.

43. Provides for the erection of urinals and privies in the streets and alleys.

*Kuang Hsü, 32nd year, 3rd moon, 13th day,  
April 6, 1906.*

[9427]

No. 111.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 23.)*

(No. 62.)

Sir,

*Peking, February 4, 1907.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 41 of the 22nd January and to my telegram No. 24 of to-day, I have the honour to inclose copy of a Memorandum which I sent to the Grand Secretary Na-t'ung on the 2nd February on the subject of the proceedings of Chang Ta-jên in Thibet.

His Excellency Tong Shoa-yi was not present at the interview of the 1st February at the Wai-wu Pu, in which I communicated the purport of your telegram No. 15 of the 30th January, and the Grand Secretary, who was not familiar with Thibetan matters, asked me to supply him with a Memorandum upon which a further telegram to Chang Ta-jên would be based. In the meantime, I have been given informally by the Grand Secretary Ch'ü Hung-chi and Tong Ta-jên the text of a telegram, translation of which



is inclosed, answering the complaint conveyed in the Viceroy of India's telegram of the 19th January. I shall still press for a reply to my Memorandum of the 2nd February.

I have, &c  
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 111.

*Memorandum communicated by Sir J. Jordan to the Grand Secretary Na-t'ung.*

WITH reference to the two telegrams from Chang Ta-jên which are inclosed in the letter dated the 12th January from the Secretaries of the Wai-wu Pu to Mr. Campbell, I am instructed by Sir E. Grey to state that, according to papers received from the Government of India, it does not appear that any agreement has been arrived at between the British and Chinese Agents at Gyantse, or between Mr. Bell and Chang Ta-jên, that all questions relating to supplies should be settled with the Chinese Agent as they arose or that the price of supplies notified by him should be accepted as final.

The Government of India received a telegram, dated the 11th January, from the British Trade Agent at Gyantse, to the effect that the Thibetan Jongpens had informed him officially that Chang Ta-jên had left orders that all dealings between the Thibetans and the British were to be conducted through the medium of the Chinese Deputy, Mr. Kao. The Jongpens regretted that, being thus compelled to consult Mr. Kao and take his instructions before complying with any request of the British Trade Agent even in the most trivial cases, it was impossible for them to continue as before to settle all local matters directly.

The contents of the above telegram were communicated to his Excellency Tong Shoa-yi on the 21st January, who said that he would make telegraphic inquiries. I am now instructed by Sir E. Grey to request that the orders to the Jongpens above reported should be revoked by Chang Ta-jên, or, if the Jongpens are misrepresenting the facts, that their action should be repudiated openly at the earliest opportunity.

With regard to Chang Ta-jên's statement that on receipt of the Wai-wu Pu's telegram of the 24th December he notified the Government of India, in writing, that the opening of the trade marts dated from the 1st January, 1905, I am instructed that up to the 27th January no such letter was received by the Government of India, and I should therefore be glad to be informed of the date and address of the communication referred to.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

*Peking, February 2, 1907.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 111.

*Chang Ta-jên to Wai-wu Pu.*

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

*February 2, 1907.*

YOUR telegram No. . .

I have never forbidden Jongpens from dealing directly with British Agent.

Your telegram No. . .

The Indian Foreign Department have recently been informed by despatch that five more important Thibetan officials, Abbots ("K'an-pu") and others, have been appointed as Deputies at the three trade marts. From this it may be known that I have not interdicted direct relations between British and Thibetan officials on trade matters.

The Gyantse Deputy has been again ordered to obey the instructions now received from the Wai-wu Pu, and I think that henceforward matters will proceed more smoothly.



463]

No. 112.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 23.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 20th instant, relative to the proceedings of Chinese officials in Thibet.

*India Office, March 22, 1907.*


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Inclosure in No. 112.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, March 20, 1907.*

SIR J. JORDAN has received following instructions in reply to his telegram of the 15th instant regarding Thibet:—

“Contradiction between statement in last paragraph and substance of Trade Agent’s telegram of the 7th instant should be pointed out by you to Wai-wu Pu. Right of direct communication between British Agent and local Thibetan authorities must be firmly insisted on by us, and Chinese Government should be urged by you to send very clear instructions in this sense to Chang. It is on complete compliance of Thibetan and Chinese officials with Treaty stipulations of their Governments towards Great Britain that British Agent’s attitude must naturally depend.”

I request at same time that amicable and conciliatory attitude may be taken up by O’Connor.

[9722]

No. 113.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 25.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 31st January, relative to the arrangements made for the transmission of Dr. Sven Hedin’s letters.

*India Office, March 23, 1907.*


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Inclosure in No. 113.

*Mr. Bell to Government of India.*

Sir,

*Gangtok, January 15, 1907.*

WITH reference to Mr. Holland’s letter dated the 1st December, 1906, I have the honour to report that the British Trade Agent at Gyantse has arranged with the Thibetan official at Shigatse, in charge of the district in which Dangra Yum Tso is situated, for the transmission of Dr. Sven Hedin’s letters to Dangra Yum Tso, which is about 600 miles from Gyantse. One batch of letters has already been dispatched.

A copy of the Government letter under reply was forwarded to the British Trade Agent for information and guidance.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) C. A. BELL,  
*Officiating Political Officer.*

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[9745]

No. 114.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 25.)*

(No. 52.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Peking, March 25, 1907.*

PLEASE see your telegram No. 33 of the 15th instant on the subject of Thibet.

At an interview on the 19th instant I communicated the substance of the above telegram to the Wai-wu Pu, who fully admitted our right of direct communication. They promised to send me a copy of the explicit instructions in this sense, which had, they said, been sent to Chang. Subsequently these instructions were communicated to me, but, as it would be possible to interpret them as restricting direct relations to questions of trade, I did not consider them satisfactory, and accordingly suggested that they should send fresh instructions in which the right should be clearly recognized in general terms.

I am now informed by his Excellency Tong Shoa-yi that new instructions in this sense were telegraphed to Chang three days ago. I am to have another interview at the Wai-wu Pu to-morrow, when a copy of this telegram will be handed to me. These instructions cannot, however, reach Gow before a week or more has elapsed.

I have repeated the above to the Viceroy of India.

[9804]

No. 115.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 26.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 14th February, relative to the treatment of Indian traders by Thibetan officials.

*India Office, March 25, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 115.

*Mr. White to the Government of India.*

Sir,

*Gangtok, February 4, 1907.*

WITH reference to the treatment of Indian traders by Thibetan officials reported in the letter from Thakur Jai Chand, British Trade Agent at Gartok, dated the 1st December, 1906, a copy of which was received with the Foreign Department indorsement, dated the 28th January, 1907, I have the honour to point out that Article VI of the Trade Regulations, appended to the Sikkim-Thibet Convention of 1890, should be amended so that in the event of trade and other disputes arising between British and Chinese or Thibetan subjects in Thibet, they shall be inquired into and settled in personal conference by the British Trade Agent and the Chinese or Thibetan official appointed for the purpose, and also that, in the event of disputes arising between British subjects in Thibet, they shall be inquired into and settled by the British Trade Agent alone.

2. In the meantime, I would suggest that Thakur Jai Chand might be instructed to use his influence with the Garpons to sit with them during the hearing of any cases against British subjects. This will be a sufficient check against any oppressive or harsh treatment by Thibetan officials.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

J. C. WHITE,

*Political Officer.*



[9796]

No. 116.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 26.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 23rd March, relative to overtures by Mr. Chang to Nepal and Bhutan.

*India Office, March 25, 1907.*


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Inclosure in No. 116.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*March 23, 1907.*

WE would invite reference to letter of the 14th ultimo from Secretary to Government of India, Foreign Department, forwarding letter from Nepal Representative. Latter document gave some indication that Chang desired to bring Thibet and Nepal into co-operation. Representative has sent further communications, including papers prepared by Tang and translated into Thibetan, from which it would seem that Lhasa Government has been urged by Chang to send their Generals into Nepal to study military methods there, and to form alliance with that State. Thibetan Government are also asked for advice as to Bhutan, which country is classed with Thibet and Nepal as all parts of same country under Chinese suzerainty, and therefore bound to stand together against British influence. Nepal Representative has further been sounded by a Chinese officer as to the possible grant to the Ambans of a loan by the Nepal Government, out of which salaries of Chinese officers and soldiers at Lhasa could be paid. All intention of being mixed up in such a matter has been disclaimed by Minister of Nepal to Resident. Chang is reported to have asked Chinese Government for permission to visit Nepal, which, in pursuance of his policy, he told Representative he thought of doing. Nepal Durbar is in delicate position. As Hunza still does, and Burmah used to do, they send missions with gifts to China, which they do not like to give up, seeing that they receive more valuable presents in return. Fortunately we maintain most friendly relations with Present Minister of Nepal; and Bhutan, as described in our despatch of the 21st February, 1907, has under Tongsa Penlop now been attached very strongly to our side. Nevertheless, we cannot contemplate with indifference the idea of China attempting, through agents in Thibet, to tamper with allegiance of States in India on Thibetan frontier. Owing to fact that periodical mission is now on its way to China, Minister may be unable to offer open opposition if Chang persists in these new ideas or proceeds with intention to visit Nepal, though from Indian standpoint there is serious objection to innovation in policy which such action indicates. We think it desirable to telegraph this further information to you, as His Majesty's Government have under consideration Thibetan affairs in connection with Chang.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[9961]

No. 117.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 27.)*

(No. 53.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Peking, March 26, 1907.*

THIBET. Please see my immediately preceding telegram of yesterday.

A telegram was sent to Chang on the 22nd instant, in which the following passage occurs:—

"You are expected to avoid friction in the future by allowing no obstacles to be placed in the way of direct relations between British officials and Thibetan officials and people."



The best means of improving the position would be, the Wai-wu Pu suggest, to establish friendly personal relations between the Agents of Great Britain and China stationed at Gyantse.

They explain that Captain O'Connor, being the newcomer, should, according to Chinese etiquette, call upon Gow in the first instance.

I have repeated the above to his Excellency the Viceroy of India.

[10144]

No. 118.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 44.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, March 27, 1907.*

ANGLO-RUSSIAN negotiations regarding Thibet.

Your telegram No. 45 of the 17th March.

The word "direct" may be inserted in the English text of the Convention.

[10138]

No. 119.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 28.)*

Sir,

*India Office, March 27, 1907.*

IN continuation of my letter of the 6th February, and with reference to subsequent correspondence regarding the proceedings of the local Chinese authorities in Thibet, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to forward, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, a copy of a further telegram from the Government of India.

Under the Vth Article of the Lhasa Convention the Thibetan Government are bound to establish at Yatung, Gyantse, and Gartok "a Thibetan Agent," and by the Ist Article of the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1906 the Chinese Government are bound to take at all times such steps as may be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms specified in the former instrument. Furthermore, Article V provides, not that communications between the British and Thibetan authorities should pass through the Chinese authorities, but, on the contrary, that communications between the Chinese authorities and the British Agent should be transmitted by the Thibetan Agent, who should be responsible for their due delivery.

Mr. Morley would suggest that the Chinese Government should be pressed to take immediate steps to compel their local authority to carry out their engagements.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 119.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*March 23, 1907.*

FOLLOWING reply, dated the 17th March, received from Trade Agent, Gyantse, to whom instructions contained in your telegram of the 12th instant were repeated:—

"It might be necessary for me, in the event of disturbances of any kind between natives and our people, to dispatch sepoys to keep order or secure personal safety of British subjects, as at present moment I am cut off by order of Chinese from all communications with Thibetan authorities. Many years of previous experience have taught us that Chinese are unable to influence or control Thibetans, so that any applications to Chinese for assistance would be useless, even it were desirable. It has now been rendered impossible for me to follow course which, under former conditions, I should have adopted in such cases, viz., to appeal to local Thibetan authorities to restore order. Unless compelled in self-defence to do so, I shall not, of course, take action of any kind."

[1722]

2 N



Until Lhasa Government formally appoints Thibetan Agents at trade marts, and our Representatives are allowed unfettered communication with them, little improvement in local situation can be expected.  
(Repeated to Peking.)

[10142]

No. 120.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 28.)*

Sir,

*India Office, March 27, 1907.*

IN reply to Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 21st instant, I am directed to say that Mr. Secretary Morley entirely concurs in the terms of Sir E. Grey's reply to Sir J. Jordan's telegram No. 46 of the 13th instant, relative to the recent difficulties which have occurred in regard to the relations between the British Trade Agent at Gyantse and the local Thibetan and Chinese authorities.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[10144]

No. 121.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 28.)*

Sir,

*India Office, March 27, 1907.*

IN reply to Sir Eric Barrington's letter of the 18th instant, forwarding a copy of Sir A. Nicolson's telegram No. 45 of the 17th instant, I am directed to say that Mr. Secretary Morley concurs in Sir E. Grey's proposal to inform His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg that the French text of the 2nd Article of the Anglo-Russian Agreement respecting Thibet may remain unaltered, and that the word "direct" should be inserted in the English version.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[10145]

No. 122.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 28.)*

(No. 53.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*St. Petersburg, March 28, 1907.*

THIBET.

Prohibition of scientific expeditions.

I have received a draft note and a Memorandum from the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Latter explains reasons against placing a complete interdict for a prolonged period on such missions. Note states that British and Russian Governments consider it advisable not to permit, so far as lies in their power, any such mission to enter Thibet without previous arrangement with the other Government, the engagement to hold good for three years from the date of the note. Both Governments are to address themselves to the Chinese Government and obtain from them a similar undertaking. At the expiration of the three years the two Governments will consult together as to what further measures are required.

Memorandum does not accept our definition of boundaries of Thibet, and thinks it would be better if an interchange of views on the subject took place with the Chinese Government.

To-day's messenger will take copies of the draft note and Memorandum.



[10148]

No. 123.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 28.)*

(No. 54.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*St. Petersburg, March 28, 1907.*

MY despatch No. 35.

Proposed draft annexe *re* Chumbi Valley occupation.

Russian Government concur, but wish to see following added :—

“It is understood that if, for some reason or another, the occupation by the British forces of the Chumbi Valley has not been terminated at the date stipulated in the above declaration, the Russian and British Governments will enter upon a friendly exchange of views regarding the definitive term of the evacuation.”

[10138]

No. 124.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 36.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, March 29, 1907.*

PLEASE see telegrams from Government of India to Secretary of State of the 14th ultimo and the 23rd instant.

The Chinese Government are bound by Article I of the 1906 Convention to secure fulfilment of the terms of the Lhasa Convention. By Article V of the latter the Thibetan Government have undertaken to establish Thibetan Agents at Gartok, Yatung, and Gyantse.

We cannot accept the appointment by Chang of Chinese as agents at the trade marts as fulfilling the terms of Article V of the Lhasa Convention, and you should therefore press the Wai-wu Pu to take immediate steps to compel the local authorities of Thibet to carry out this engagement by the appointment of Thibetan Agents.

[10317]

No. 125.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 30.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy dated the 28th March, relative to the wounding of a Thibetan woman by a sepoy, and the claim of the Chinese authorities to be present at the inquiry.

*India Office, March 30, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 125.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*March 28, 1907.*

A SEPOY attached to the escort of Gyantse Trade Agent injured a Thibetan woman by shooting her in the hand on the 3rd March. Sepoy was on shooting leave at the time. The case was dealt with by officer commanding the escort, who punished the sepoy under military rules, after ascertaining facts with Trade Agent's assistance. A request to be present at the inquiry was made by Captain O'Connor to the local Thibetan authorities, but they declined to attend after consulting Chinese Commissioner Gow. Subsequently, on the 14th March, Mr. Gow wrote to the Trade Agent to the effect that he had been instructed by Mr. Chang to intimate that no mixed case of the kind should have been tried without information to, and presence of, Chinese Commissioner. Mr. Gow added, without any mention whatever of Thibetan authorities, that unless the case was re-heard by joint Commissioners, the Chinese, in the event of



assault by a native upon a British soldier or subject, would be compelled to adopt similar measures. Chinese apparently base their claim to interfere on Article 6 of 1893 Trade Regulations, which, however, as it refers only to trade disputes, does not apply. As the Trade Agent does not possess any magisterial powers, there was no formal trial of the case. We have now received from him a request to be invested with such powers; but, without the consent of the Thibetan Government, it would not apparently be possible to delegate to him authority to take cognizance of mixed cases. Question of jurisdiction at Gyantse in mixed cases between Thibetans or Chinese and British subjects being one of some difficulty, we think that it would be better that it should be reserved for discussion till the time comes for revision of Trade Regulations. Subject to your approval, we propose, therefore, to instruct Captain O'Connor that no reply should be returned to the communication received from Mr. Gow, and that, before action is taken, any further mixed cases that may occur should be reported for our orders. As regards future relations between local inhabitants and subordinates at Gyantse, whether military or civil, we are taking steps to minimize as far as possible risk of collision or disturbance.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[10336]

No. 126.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 2.)*

(No. 142.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, March 16, 1907.*

I HAVE been carefully comparing the French and English texts of the Convention regarding Thibet, and I find that in the second paragraph of Article II there is a slight variation between the two versions. The English text says: "It is understood that both British and Russian Buddhists may enter into relations," &c.; while the French text is: "peuvent entrer en relations directes," &c. The word "directes" has been interpolated, probably with the view of emphasizing that the religious intercourse need not pass through the intermediary of the Chinese Government, as would be the case with political matters.

I have not called the attention of M. Isvolsky to the variant in the texts, as I should be glad to be informed whether I should insert the word "direct" in the English text, or request that it should be omitted from the French version, which was communicated to me as a translation of the English draft Convention.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[10355]

No. 127.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 2.)*

(No. 163.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, March 28, 1907.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of an amended Annex to the Thibetan Convention, regarding the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley, which I received yesterday from M. Isvolsky.

You will observe that the Russian Government propose to add a paragraph dealing with the situation which would be created if the British occupation were to be prolonged beyond the period indicated in the Declaration of the Viceroy of India, and appended to the ratification of the Convention of the 7th September, 1904.

I do not know if His Majesty's Government will be disposed to accept the addendum, but I am glad to observe that M. Isvolsky has abandoned his original idea of submitting the whole Convention regarding Thibet to a revision if the occupation were to continue beyond the prescribed period.

I telegraphed the substance of the addendum in my telegram No. 54 of to-day's date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.



Inclosure in No. 127.

*Annex to Thibetan Convention.*

LA Grande-Bretagne réaffirme la Déclaration signée par son Excellence le Vice-Roi et Gouverneur-Général des Indes, et annexée à la ratification de la Convention du 7 Septembre, 1904, stipulant que l'occupation de la Vallée de Chumbi par les forces Britanniques prendra fin après le paiement de trois annuités de 25,00,000 roupies, à condition que les places de marché mentionnées dans l'Article II de ladite Convention soient effectivement ouvertes depuis trois ans et que les autorités Thibétaines durant cette période se conforment strictement sous tous les rapports aux termes de ladite Convention de 1904. Il est bien entendu que si l'occupation de la Vallée de Chumbi par les forces Britanniques n'aura pas pris fin, pour quelque raison que ce soit, à l'époque prévue par la Déclaration précitée, les Gouvernements Britannique et Russe entreront dans un échange de vues amical concernant le terme définitif de l'évacuation.

[10356]

No. 128.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 2.)*

(No. 164.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, March 28, 1907.*

I WAS unable to see M. Isvolsky yesterday, as his Excellency did not, I regret to say, receive as usual, owing to the serious illness of his mother, but he was good enough to send me a *pro-memorid* and draft note, of which I have the honour to inclose copies, relative to the entry of scientific missions into Thibet. The draft note is the communication which M. Isvolsky proposes I should address to him on the occasion of signing the Convention, and he would doubtless make a similar communication simultaneously to me. I venture to submit that the note might be accepted, as I consider that it would be extremely difficult to induce the Russian Government to go further than is implied in the terms of the communication, and, indeed, I hardly anticipated that M. Isvolsky would be disposed to meet our wishes in the manner in which he has done.

With respect to the definitions of the boundaries of Thibet, you will observe that M. Isvolsky suggests that the two Governments should discuss the matter with the Chinese Government at Peking, and this could be appropriately undertaken when the question of scientific missions is also treated at the Chinese capital.

I would suggest that I should propose to M. Isvolsky that the Chinese Government should be moved, in giving their consent to do what lay in their power to prohibit scientific missions, to state the limits of Thibet according to their views; and that the British and Russian Governments should then sign a declaration recording their adherence to the limits laid down by the Chinese Government. As the negotiations at Peking will probably occupy some time, it would perhaps be desirable not to await their conclusion before signing the Thibetan Convention and proceeding to the exchange of notes between the two Governments in regard to scientific missions.

The views of the Chinese Government could well form the subject-matter of a separate and subsequent declaration.

I telegraphed a short résumé of the Memorandum and of the draft in my telegram No. 53 of to-day's date.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 128.

*Draft Note communicated by M. Isvolsky to Sir A. Nicolson.*

ME référant à la Convention au sujet du Thibet, signée aujourd'hui, j'ai l'honneur de faire à votre Excellence la déclaration suivante :

Le Gouvernement Britannique juge utile, pour autant qu'il dépendra de lui, de ne pas admettre—sauf accord préalable avec le Gouvernement Russe—pour une durée de trois ans, à partir de la date de la présente communication, l'entrée au Thibet d'une

[1722]

2 O



mission scientifique quelconque, à condition toutefois qu'une assurance pareille soit donnée de la part du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie.

Le Gouvernement Britannique se propose en outre de s'adresser au Gouvernement Chinois afin de faire agréer à ce dernier une obligation analogue pour une période correspondante; il va de soi que la même démarche sera faite par le Gouvernement Russe.

À l'expiration du terme de trois ans précité, le Gouvernement Britannique avisera d'un commun accord avec le Gouvernement Russe à l'opportunité, s'il y a lieu, de mesures ultérieures à prendre concernant les expéditions scientifiques au Thibet.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 128.

*Pro-memoria communicated by M. Isvolsky to Sir A. Nicolson.*

LE Gouvernement Impérial n'a pas manqué d'étudier avec attention la plus minutieuse les propositions du Gouvernement Britannique contenues dans le projet de note au sujet des expéditions au Thibet.

Le Gouvernement Impérial se rend parfaitement compte des inconvénients que présenterait l'envoi d'expéditions étrangères au Thibet, étant donné l'état de choses encore incertain dans ce pays. Il craindrait cependant de s'exposer à de graves reproches s'il consentait à interdire complètement et pour une période trop prolongée l'entrée de ce pays. Également soucieux d'éviter toute cause de malentendu, il préférerait un arrangement qui, tout en parant aux éventualités possibles, ne fermerait pas aussi complètement la porte aux progrès de la science et à l'exploration du dit pays. Selon son avis, il serait suffisant que tout expédition scientifique au Thibet, tant Anglaise que Russe, ne puisse pénétrer dans ce pays pendant une période de trois ans sans un accord préalable entre les deux Gouvernements. Il va de soi que la Chine devrait de son côté prendre un engagement analogue, ce qui est d'ailleurs prévu dans le projet Anglais.

Le Gouvernement Impérial aurait aussi quelques objections à formuler contre la définition de la frontière Thibétaine septentrionale proposée par le Gouvernement Britannique et incluant le haut Tsaidam et le Thajji occidental dans le territoire du Thibet; les données dont dispose à ce sujet le Gouvernement Impérial tendent à démontrer que le Tsaidam tout entier fait partie de la Chine. Ce territoire situé dans la Mongolie du Sud est relié administrativement à la Province de Koukounor, gouvernée comme le reste de la Mongolie et divisée en vingt-neuf khouchoues subordonnés à deux Conseils ou Seims. Les affaires traitées dans les Conseils sont soumises au Gouvernement de Pékin par l'intermédiaire du Gouverneur (Amban) de Sin-ning. En tout cas, la dépendance des habitants du Tsaidam vis-à-vis des autorités Chinoises ne laisse aucun doute. Au point de vue économique les nomades du Tsaidam dépendent également des grands centres Chinois, tels que Soutcheou au nord et Sin-ning à l'est. On ne peut certainement nier l'existence de certains liens religieux avec le Thibet, mais même le district éloigné de Chane\* au sud-est ne saurait être considéré comme faisant partie du territoire Thibétain, à l'exception peut-être d'une bande de terrain près du couvent Thibétain qui dépend du Bantchan Rimboutchi, grand dignitaire de la hiérarchie Thibétaine. D'ailleurs, la frontière Thibétaine officielle gardée par des postes militaires ne touche pas au Tsaidam. Ce dernier est séparé des Provinces Thibétaines par une chaîne de montagnes désertes ou habitées en partie par des peuplades ne reconnaissant de fait aucune autorité.

En vue des considérations susmentionnées et afin de prévenir toute cause ultérieure de malentendu sur cette question, le Gouvernement Impérial estime qu'il serait plus facile de trouver une définition exacte des limites du Thibet au moyen d'un échange de vues avec le Gouvernement Chinois. Une démarche à Pékin semblerait d'autant plus opportune qu'elle pourrait être rattachée à l'accord prévu au sujet de l'envoi de missions scientifiques.

Si ce point de vue était partagé par le Gouvernement Anglais, la question des frontières pourrait être temporairement exclue du contre-projet Russe jusqu'à un accord définitif entre les deux Cabinets.

Le Gouvernement Impérial aime à espérer que le Gouvernement Britannique voudra bien reconnaître la justesse des considérations qui précèdent, et croit devoir

\* Kham.



transmettre sous ce pli à son Excellence Sir Arthur Nicolson un contre-projet de note ayant trait à l'admission des expéditions scientifiques au Thibet.

Pour ce qui est du projet d'annexe à la Convention au sujet de l'occupation de la Vallée de Chumby par les forces Britanniques, le Gouvernement Impérial jugerait utile d'y faire un ajout, qui se trouve consigné dans le texte ci-joint.

*Saint-Pétersbourg, le 14 (27) Mars, 1907.*

[10148]

No. 129.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 4, 1907.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg, respecting the proposed inclusion in the Agreement with Russia as to Thibet of a Declaration in regard to the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley.\*

It will be seen that the Russian Government agree to the British draft, but wish to add following: "It is understood that if the occupation of Chumbi Valley by the British forces has not been terminated for some reason or another at the date stipulated in above Declaration, the British and Russian Governments will enter upon a friendly exchange of views regarding definitive term of evacuation."

Sir E. Grey is disposed to think that it is possible for His Majesty's Government to accept this sentence, provided that the concluding words "regarding definitive term of evacuation" are omitted. It could be pointed out to the Russian Government that the evacuation of the Chumbi Valley is entirely dependent on the fulfilment by the Thibetans of the terms of the Convention of 1904, to which the Chinese Government had also adhered, and that it would under the circumstances be quite impossible, if only on the ground of British *amour-propre*, to admit the right of intervention of another foreign Power to determine the date of evacuation, which His Majesty's Government are sincerely desirous should not be retarded a single day, by the non-fulfilment of the conditions of the Convention of 1904.

Before, however, sending instructions to Sir A. Nicolson in this sense, Sir E. Grey would be glad to learn whether Mr. Secretary Morley has any observations to make in regard to the matter.

A copy of a despatch from Sir A. Nicolson transmitting the French text of the Declaration is also inclosed.†

I am, &c.  
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[10837]

No. 130.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 5.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 28th February, relative to the Gyantse and Chumbi Valley trade reports for the quarter ended the 31st December, 1906.

*India Office, April 4, 1907.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 130.

*Mr. White to Government of India.*

*Gangtok, February 8, 1907.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the trade reports for the quarter ending the 31st December, 1906, received from the British Trade Agent at Gyantse and the Assistant Political Officer in Chumbi.

\* No. 122.

† No. 127.



2. There has been nothing of interest during the last quarter to call for special remark. It is unfortunate that the first returns sent in from the trade registration post at Chumbi are unreliable, but the statistics of trade passing through Yatung and over the Jelapla which have been supplied to the Assistant Political Officer by the Chinese Customs Officer are supplemented by those of Gangtok, where the trade passing over the Nathula has been registered. This gives the total trade, excluding treasure which is some 90,000 rupees, via the Chumbi Valley, as 2,94,084 rupees for exports and 3,78,389 rupees for imports during the quarter under report. These figures show an increase over those of the corresponding quarter of last year of 41,581 rupees in exports and of 49,418 rupees in imports, a total increase, excluding treasure, of 90,999 rupees. To the above should be added the value of the trade via Khambajong and the Lachen Valley, which for the quarter under report is 1,179 rupees for exports and 8,601 rupees for imports, total 9,780 rupees. The returns of the trade registered at Gangtok during the quarter are attached.

3. Captain O'Connor's suggestion that the Indian Tea Cess Committee should depute their own agent to push the sale of tea and report on its reception and properties taken in conjunction with Lieutenant Campbell's suggestion regarding the opening of "Tea Shops" should certainly be given a trial, and the present time, while we are still in occupation of the Chumbi Valley, is the most favourable for testing the success or otherwise of the experiment.

Inclosure 2 in No. 130.

*Return of Trade registered at Gangtok during the Quarter ending the 31st December, 1906.*

				Rupees.	Rupees.
<i>Viâ Nathula.</i>					
October 1906 ..	Exports .. ..	..	..	1,126	
	Imports .. ..	..	..	2,190	
	Treasure .. ..	..	..	4,065	7,381
November " ..	Exports .. ..	..	..	484	
	Imports .. ..	..	..	6,003	
	Treasure .. ..	..	..	..	6 487
December " ..	Exports .. ..	..	..	2,157	
	Imports .. ..	..	..	2,611	
	Treasure .. ..	..	..	..	4,768
Total .. ..				..	18,636
<i>Viâ Khambajong.</i>					
October 1906 ..	Exports .. ..	..	..	..	
	Imports .. ..	..	..	740	
	Treasure .. ..	..	..	..	740
November " ..	Exports .. ..	..	..	..	
	Imports .. ..	..	..	6,415	
	Treasure .. ..	..	..	..	6,415
December " ..	Exports .. ..	..	..	1,179	
	Imports .. ..	..	..	1,446	
	Treasure .. ..	..	..	..	2,625
Total .. ..				..	9,780
Total trade registered at Gangtok				..	28,416



## Inclosure 3 in No. 130.

*Quarterly Trade Report of Captain W. F. O'Connor, British Trade Agent at Gyantse,  
for the Quarter ending December 31, 1906.*

OWING to my only having arrived at Gyantse on the 7th January last, I can furnish but a meagre report regarding the trade of this part of Thibet with India. I observed on my way up here between Phari and Gyantse that, as is usual at this time of the year, large quantities of wool were being carried down towards India chiefly upon donkeys. At Gyantse itself but small signs of trade are apparent, this place not being an exchange mart for this part of Thibet—to any but the smallest extent. I hear, however, that the improvement in communications between Gyantse and Phari effected during the last two years has encouraged some few traders (notably some Newars) to settle here with a view to trading directly with India. Another effect of the improved communications has been enormously to enhance the local price of wool. Formerly buyers were content to purchase at Phari, where the carriers, who had taken the risk of the carriage between Gyantse and Phari, demanded a high price; but now that these risks have been practically abolished the same prices are demanded here as were formerly obtained at Phari.

*Tea.*

I have received from Messrs. Finlay, Muir and Co., Calcutta, 68 tea bricks for disposal here to the best advantage possible. I hope to be able to report regarding this tea in my next quarterly report.

With reference to this question of disposing of Indian brick tea in Thibet I have already recommended the Indian Tea Cess Committee to depute their own agent for the purposes. In view of potentialities of the Thibetan market the small expense involved in the deputation of such an agent would be amply justified, and he would be more qualified than an official like the British Trade Agent both to push the sale of the tea and to report upon its reception and properties.

(Signed) W. F. O'CONNOR.

## Inclosure 4 in No. 130.

*Chumbi Valley Quarterly Trade Report for the Quarter ending December 31, 1906.*

THE first returns sent in from the Trade Registration post are so unreliable that I have thought better to omit them altogether. By far the largest import is wool; the articles next in importance are musk, yak-tails, woollen piece-goods and mules. The statistics of trade passing through Yatung and over the Jelap La, collected by the Chinese Customs Officer, compared with the corresponding quarter of last year show an increase of exports amounting to 37,813 rupees and of imports amounting to 38,615 rupees, a total increase of 76,428 rupees. These figures exclude treasure of which comparative figures are not available. The returns for the three months under report, collected by the Chinese Customs Officer at Yatung, which he has been good enough to give me, are attached.

2. The imports from Thibet to India greatly exceed the exports. This is probably accounted for by the large amount of wool which is still passing down, the value of this being over 2½ lakhs during the quarter under report.

3. Merchandise from India is now finding a readier sale in Lhasa. One Kashmiri trader sold goods to the value of 8,000 rupees in two days, and immediately returned to Calcutta to bring up another consignment. The Kashmiri merchants who bring articles up from Calcutta say that they make about 50 per cent. clear profit on each journey and travel down about three times a year.

*Bazaar at Chema.*

4. The weekly bazaar at Chema (started by Lieutenant Campbell) is a great success and is always well attended, though, of course, no large amount of money changes hands.

[1722]



*Skins.*

5. The skins of some Thibetan animals are valuable, but the Thibetan method of curing them renders them quite useless for export. The Chinese Government are sending out Chinese skin curers to teach the Thibetans the art of preserving skins properly.

*Tea.*

6. No Indian tea has been exported to Thibet through the Chumbi Valley during the last three months. Some samples sent by the "Indian Tea Supply Company" have been given out to the people, but I am not very sanguine regarding the prospects of Indian tea at present, unless made up into bricks like the Chinese article. I think that good results may be expected if Lieutenant Campbell's suggestion of giving away Indian tea ready for drinking is carried out, but the tea should be made up into bricks. Some samples sent to Gyantse by the Consolidated Tea and Lands Company would be very suitable for this purpose.

*Trade Registration Post.*

7. The trade registration post at Pipitang is nearly complete. The clerk who registers the trade is at present living in a tent, but the house being built will be soon habitable.

(Signed) F. M. BAILEY, *Lieutenant,*  
*Assistant Political Officer, Chumbi.*

*Inclosure 5 in No. 130.*

*Trade passing through Yatung and over the Jelap La during the Quarter ending the 31st December, 1906.*

				October, November, and December.	
				1905.	1906.
				Rupees.	Rupees.
Exports from India	..	..	..	2,52,504	2,90,317
Imports to India	..	..	..	3,28,971	3,67,586

(Signed) F. M. BAILEY, *Lieutenant,*  
*Assistant Political Officer, Chumbi.*

[9796]

No. 131.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 5, 1907.*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of the telegram from the Government of India of the 26th ultimo, which was communicated by your Department on the same day, reporting certain action taken by the Chinese Imperial Commissioner in Thibet with a view to bringing about co-operation between Thibet and Nepal under the auspices of China.

Sir E. Grey appreciates the anxiety felt by the Government of India towards any action calculated to disturb the *status quo* on the northern frontier of India; but I am to point out, with regard to this aspect of the question, that Mr. Chang is stated to be returning to China, in which case the attitude now adopted by the Chinese authorities in Thibet may possibly be dropped.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.



[10921]

No. 132.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 6.)*

(No. 92.)

Sir,

*Peking, February 19, 1907.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Goffe, Acting Consul-General at Ch'engt'u, reporting a conversation with Chao Erh Feng, the recently appointed Imperial Commissioner in charge of the frontier districts.

I would draw your attention to Mr. Chao's statement that he intended to make inquiries with regard to a railway to India to connect at Batang. Rumours respecting a railway of this kind have also appeared in the Chinese papers.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

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Inclosure in No. 132.

*Acting Consul-General Goffe to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 2.)

Sir,

*Ch'engt'u, January 9, 1907.*

WHEN paying a farewell call on Chao Erh Feng, the recently appointed Imperial Commissioner in charge of the frontier districts, I took occasion to ask his Excellency as to his future plans. He informed me that he had decided to make Batang his place of residence, and that he was now making preparations for the erection of a suitable Yamên. His intention was to leave Ch'engt'u for his new post in May next, by which time he hoped to have made the necessary arrangements with the Viceroy for the provision of funds. He had, however, to await the arrival of Viceroy Ts'en at Yünnan-fu, in order to discuss with him what part, if any, of Yünnan Province would come under his jurisdiction, a point as to which at present there was considerable vagueness. He did not, he said, propose to go to Yünnan-fu himself, as it would take too much time.

In answer to my inquiries, he stated that so far he had had no response to his invitation to the farming class to go and settle in Batang, but he had sent the Proclamation to all the district Magistrates, and he hoped for favourable results. He is anxious to introduce as large a Chinese element as possible into the district, in order to act as a check to the lamas, whose numbers and influence appear to cause him considerable anxiety.

He spoke vaguely of a railway to India to connect at Batang with the main line to Thibet, and announced his intention of making inquiries on this point.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) HERBERT GOFFE.

[11036]

No. 133.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 6.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 4th April, relative to passes for Chinese entering Thibet.

*India Office, April 6, 1907.*


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Inclosure in No. 133.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*April 4, 1907.*

I APPROVE proposals contained in your telegram of the 13th ultimo, requiring Chinese entering Thibet to provide themselves with passes.

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[11274]

No. 134.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 9.)*

(No. 57.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Peking, April 8, 1907.*

AT an interview with the Wai-wu Pu on the 2nd April, I communicated, in the form of a Memorandum, the contents of your telegram No. 36 of the 29th March.

Their reply, which was in writing, has reached me to-day, and reads substantially as follows:—

“The Board, considering it of urgent importance that regulations for the administration of Yatung, Gyantse, and Gartok, opened as trade marts under the Thibet Convention, should be drawn up, have, with Imperial sanction, intrusted Mr. Chang, their Special Commissioner, with the duty of making arrangements for the opening of these places.

“Mr. Chang will proceed to Calcutta to negotiate trade regulations with such special Representative of high rank as the Government of India may appoint with full powers for that purpose; or will select a Representative to conduct such negotiations with the Trade Agent at Gyantse, should the Indian Government so desire.

“In accordance with the Convention, the appointment of Thibetan Agents at each of these three marts will follow upon the settlement of the trade mart regulations.”

I have repeated this telegram to his Excellency the Viceroy of India.

[11453]

No. 135.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 10.)*

Sir,

*India Office, April 9, 1907.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to invite the attention of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the telegram from the Viceroy of the 28th ultimo,\* as to the instructions which it is proposed to issue to the British Trade Agent at Gyantse in connection with the question raised by the action of the Chinese Commissioner, Mr. Gow, in the matter of the wounding of a Thibetan woman by a sepoy of the British escort.

Mr. Morley proposes, subject to any observations which Sir E. Grey may make, to approve the instructions suggested by the Government of India. He would also propose, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, that His Majesty's Minister at Peking should be instructed to call the attention of the Chinese Government to the matter, and to press still more strongly upon them the views of His Majesty's Government as to the necessity of direct communications between the British Agent and the local Thibetan authorities expressed in Sir E. Grey's telegram No. 33 to Sir J. Jordan of the 15th ultimo.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[11817]

No. 136.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 13.)*

Sir,

*India Office, April 12, 1907.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Sir F. Campbell's letter of the 5th instant as to the counter-draft proposed by the Russian Government on the question of the prohibition of Scientific Missions to Thibet, and to say, in reply, that Mr. Secretary Morley concurs in the opinion of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that the terms of the Russian draft may be accepted by His Majesty's Government.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

\* No. 125.



[11817]

No. 137.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 49.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, April 13, 1907.*

PROHIBITION of the visit of Scientific Missions to Thibet.

His Majesty's Government accept the draft note submitted by the Russian Government, copy of which was forwarded to me in your despatch No. 164 of the 28th March last.

[12117]

No. 138.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 15.)*

Sir,

*India Office, April 13, 1907.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge the receipt of Sir E. Barrington's letter of the 4th instant, on the subject of the addition proposed by the Russian Government to the draft Agreement concerning Thibet in respect of the obligations incurred by His Majesty's Government as to the evacuation of the Chumbi Valley, under the terms of the Lhasa Convention as ratified.

In reply, I am to say that Mr. Morley concurs in the view of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that the terms of the addition proposed by the Russian Government may be accepted, provided the concluding words, "regarding definitive term of evacuation," are omitted.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[12470]

No. 139.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 18.)*

Sir,

*India Office, April 18, 1907.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to inclose, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 15th instant, as to the request of the Wai-wu Pu, reported in the telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Peking of the 26th March, that the Trade Agent at Gyantse should make the first call on Mr. Gow.

Mr. Morley has no desire to press puerile questions of etiquette, but in view of the importance of maintaining the principle of freedom of direct relations between the British officials at Gyantse and the Thibetan officials and people, Mr. Morley would suggest, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, that the Wai-wu Pu should be informed that, though there is no objection to Captain O'Connor making the first visit as a matter of courtesy, His Majesty's Government cannot authorize him to make the visit till they have heard that the orders sent by the Wai-wu Pu, that no obstacles are to be placed in the way of direct relations between British officials and Thibetan officials and people, have been satisfactorily carried out.

If Sir E. Grey concurs in this view, the Government of India will be instructed to repeat their telegram of the 15th instant to Peking, and to obtain a report from the Trade Agent on the action taken by the local Chinese officials to carry out the instructions of the Wai-wu Pu.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 139.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*April 15, 1907.*

THIBET. Wai-wu Pu's suggestion, reported in Sir J. Jordan's telegram to Foreign Office dated the 26th ultimo, that, in order to establish friendly relations, Captain O'Connor, as newcomer at Gyantse, should call upon Mr. Gow.

[1722]

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Establishment of amicable relations between Chinese and British officers at trade mart is, we agree, advisable, but (1) we think instructions issued by Wai-wu Pu as to freedom of communications between British officials and Thibetans should be given full effect to by Chinese officers before Captain O'Connor takes any steps in direction suggested. No steps to rescind present orders, by which direct dealing with O'Connor is forbidden to Jongpens, have, so far as we have heard, been taken; (2) until Mr. Gow has withdrawn charges of robbery, high-handedness, and breach of Treaty made by him against our officers in his discourteous letters addressed on the 3rd and 4th December to Mr. Bell and Lieutenant Bailey, we regard it as very undesirable that he should receive a call from any British officer; (3) British Trade Agent presumably should be regarded as holding position equivalent to that of Consul in China; under Treaty of 1852 we understand that Consul ranks with Intendant of Circuit, whereas Mr. Gow is described by Chang in letter to Secretary in Foreign Department as having rank of Prefect. We doubt, therefore, whether Mr. Gow is an officer of sufficient rank to entitle him to receive a first visit from Captain O'Connor.

We would suggest that His Majesty's Minister at Peking should be requested to find out what is Gow's real rank, and to give his views whether the paying of a first call upon him by an officer of status of Consul would be appropriate from point of view of Chinese etiquette.

Captain O'Connor has been Trade Agent since mart was opened. Lieutenant Bailey, who was only acting for him, apparently received no formal official call from Mr. Gow, though informal visits were exchanged between them in November 1906. Recall of Mr. Gow from post at Gyantse, and appointment by Chinese Government of new officer, with instructions to execute recent orders and to observe ordinary laws of politeness in correspondence with Trade Agent, would appear to be simplest solution of difficulty. As a newcomer, such an officer would call upon Trade Agent, and instructions to use every endeavour to maintain friendly relations would be issued to the latter.

[12117]

No. 140.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 52.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, April 18, 1907.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 54 of the 28th ultimo, respecting the occupation of the Chumbi Valley, I have to inform you that we accept draft proposed by Russian Government, provided that they omit the concluding words, "regarding definitive term of evacuation."

You should at the same time point out to the Russian Government that the evacuation of the Chumbi Valley depends entirely on the fulfilment by the Thibetans of our Convention of 1904.

Whether the stipulations of that Convention have been complied with is a question which it would be impossible for us to agree to discuss with another Power, but we have no reason to anticipate that they will not be complied with, and we sincerely desire that no delay whatever should take place in the date of evacuation.

[12615]

No. 141.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 19.)*

(No. 203.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, April 15, 1907.*

I INFORMED M. Isvolsky to-day that His Majesty's Government accepted the terms of the note which the Russian Government had drafted in regard to the prohibition of scientific missions in Thibet during a period of three years. His Excellency seemed to be gratified by this announcement.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

A. NICOLSON.



[12535]

No. 142.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 19.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 16th instant, relative to the Thibet Trade Regulations.

*India Office, April 19, 1907.*


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Inclosure in No. 142.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, April 16, 1907.*

PLEASE see telegram dated the 8th instant, regarding Thibet Trade Regulations, from His Majesty's Minister at Peking.

Balance of advantage, in view of strained situation at Gyantse, seems all in favour of negotiations at Calcutta. Thibetan officials must be associated with settlement in such a way as to make it impossible for Lhasa Government to disclaim responsibility for it, but, having regard to desirability of early settlement, to insist too strongly on Article III of 1904 Convention would be a mistake. Subject to any criticisms you may wish to make, reply to Sir J. Jordan in this sense is proposed.

[12470]

No. 143.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 42.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, April 19, 1907.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 53 and the Viceroy of India's telegram of April 15, which will be repeated to you, respecting the relations between British and Chinese officials in Thibet.

You should inform Wai-wu Pu that until His Majesty's Government hear that the orders issued by the Chinese Government that no obstacles are to be placed in the way of direct relations between British officials and Thibetan officials and people have been satisfactorily carried out, they cannot authorize Captain O'Connor to make the first visit, though there is no objection to his making it as a matter of courtesy.

Captain O'Connor will be instructed to report on the action of the Chinese officials to carry out the instructions of the Wai-wu Pu.

[12736]

No. 144.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 20.)*

(No. 105.)

Sir,

*Peking, March 4, 1907.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 62 of the 4th February, I have the honour to inclose copy of a Memorandum which I handed to the Grand Secretary Na-tung and his Excellency Tong Shoa-yi at the Wai-wu Pu on the 19th February in consequence of the instructions contained in your telegram No. 20 of the 9th February respecting the proceedings of Chang Ta-jên in Thibet.

Their Excellencies assured me that the impeachment of Yu Ta-jên and the other officials mentioned in the telegram of the 3rd February from the Viceroy of India had no relation to transactions of any kind with British authorities, whether in the negotiation of the Lhasa Convention or since. Charges of corruption had been made against Yu Ta-jên and others for years past, those against Yu dating from the beginning of his services in Thibet, and Chang Ta-jên had been specially empowered by Imperial Decree to make a strict inquiry into his administration. Chang's Report has been recently



presented to the Throne, and another Decree had been issued detaining Yu Ta-jên and the rest in Thibet, where were all the witnesses and documents, pending the final decision of the Chinese Government. There was no question of imprisonment in chains or otherwise, and in fact Yu was still unpunished.

With regard to the Tashi Lama, their Excellencies wished to say that while he was in India Chang Ta-jên assisted him pecuniarily, and also earned his gratitude for help given when he and some of his suite fell ill. It was a mistake to suppose that the Chinese Government desired to pursue him on account of the visit to India, which they understood to be a mere act of courtesy.

Their Excellencies explained that the appointment of Chinese officials to the trade marts was temporary, and made in fulfilment of their obligation to see to the proper execution of the provisions of the Lhasa Convention. The sole function of these officers was to arrange the opening of the trade marts, and Chang Ta-jên's instructions precluded any action which would be at variance with the terms of Article V. The Chinese Government were at one with His Majesty's Government in desiring amicable and harmonious relations between all the officials concerned, British, Thibetan, and Chinese, and further telegraphic instructions would be sent to Chang Ta-jên to secure this.

I held that the fact of so many of the Chinese and Thibetan officials who had had friendly relations with our officers being attacked by Chang Ta-jên justified the Indian Government in entertaining suspicions of his motives, and that the reports in Thibet of hostility to the Tashi Lama on account of the visit to meet His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales were too persistent to be ignored. I had had no reason at any time to be dissatisfied with the assurances given to me by the Wai-wu Pu, but the difficulty appeared to be that the Chinese Agents in Thibet were not acting in the spirit of those assurances, and it was highly necessary that the instructions to be sent to Chang Ta-jên should leave no loophole for further misunderstanding. His Majesty's Government had given ample evidence of their desire to deal generously with China in regard to Thibet, but they attached importance to the matters mentioned in the Memorandum, and it was essential that there should be no doubt about the attitude of the Chinese Government in regard to them. I suggested therefore that the reply to the Memorandum should be in writing, and this was agreed to.

As regards the second instalment of the Thibetan indemnity, the Wai-wu Pu had written on the 25th January to tell me that the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation had made the remittance from Shanghai to the order of Chang Ta-jên, but that the error had been rectified by the Taotai instructing the bank, as soon as he learnt of this, to pay the money over directly to the Comptroller-General at Calcutta. Referring to this communication, I pointed out that the payment had evidently not yet been accomplished, and that, in the terms of the Memorandum, His Majesty's Government would for the present suspend the arrangement for payment direct by China.

Their Excellencies said that the arrangement was a convenient one, and hoped that it would not fall through; but I repeated the sense of the Memorandum, and mentioned that His Majesty's Government would not address the Thibetan Government directly pending the receipt of the Wai-wu Pu's written reply.

This reached me on the 27th February in the form of a Memorandum, a summary of the contents of which was communicated to you in my telegram No. 34 of that date. A translation of the Memorandum is inclosed herewith for your information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 144.

*Memorandum handed to Wai-wu Pu on February 19, 1907.*

ACCORDING to reports which have reached the Government of India from Thibet, it would appear that the action of the Imperial Commissioner, his Excellency Chang Yin-t'ang, since his arrival in that country has been inspired by a desire to remove all Chinese officials who have been instrumental in improving the relations between British and Thibetans. It is stated that the Imperial Resident, his Excellency Yu-t'ai, who was concerned in the negotiation of the Lhasa Convention of 1904, was



relieved of office on the 12th January, and imprisoned; that his Excellency's Secretary was also imprisoned; and that the former Shigatse and Chumbi Popons, and two other Chinese officials, have been degraded. It is also stated that similar action is being taken against Thibetan officials concerned in recent negotiations with the British authorities, Yutok Shape and General Tang having been cashiered, and Sechung Shape threatened with similar punishment.

I am instructed to call the attention of the Chinese Government to the above reports, and to point out that any punishment of officials for having been concerned in the negotiations of the Lhasa Convention is not compatible with the recognition of that Convention by China, which was formally recorded in the Convention of the 27th April, 1906.

The attitude of the Chinese authorities in Thibet towards the Tashi Lama has, moreover, given grounds for apprehension, and I am instructed to represent emphatically to the Chinese Government that, the visit of the Lama to Calcutta having been a purely ceremonial one to meet His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, any action taken against him which would punish him for making that visit, or which would treat it as an offence, would not be consistent with courteous and cordial relations between His Majesty's Government and China.

In a telegram from Chang Ta-jên to the Wai-wu Pu, copy of which was handed to me by the Grand Secretary Ch'ü Hung-chi and his Excellency Tong Shoa-yi on the 2nd February, it was stated that the Indian Foreign Department had recently been informed by letter that five more important Thibetan officials had been appointed as deputies at the three trade marts. In a telegram dated the 3rd February from the Viceroy of India His Majesty's Government was informed that Chang Ta-jên had addressed a letter to the Indian Foreign Secretary, announcing that he had appointed Chinese officers at the trade marts for the conduct of international and trade affairs, and that he had asked for the names and ranks of the British Trade Agents, for the purpose of arranging an exchange of communications between British and Chinese officials. I presume that the Thibetan officials referred to in Chang Ta-jên's telegram of the 2nd February were appointed after the Chinese officials mentioned in the telegram of the 3rd February from the Viceroy of India. I am instructed to represent that His Majesty's Government cannot regard the Chinese officials above mentioned as taking the place of the Thibetan Agents who are to be established by the Thibetan Government at the trade marts, in accordance with the terms of Article V of the Lhasa Convention, and to inquire what are the exact duties and status of the Chinese officials appointed by Chang Ta-jên. In no circumstances can His Majesty's Government permit the freedom of intercourse between the British Trade Agent and the Thibetan Agent at Gyantse to be interfered with by Chinese officials.

With regard to the second instalment of the Thibetan indemnity, which it was arranged should be made payable in Calcutta to the Comptroller-General by telegraphic transfer from Shanghai, I am further to state that, as the payment has not yet been made, His Majesty's Government must for the present suspend the arrangement for the payment direct by the Chinese Government, and require payment through Thibetan officials at Gyantse to the British Trade Agent, as provided for by the actual terms of the Lhasa Convention. His Majesty's Government entered into the Convention of the 27th April, 1906, in order that the maintenance of the Convention concluded with Thibet should not be prejudicial to China, and they expected that, by recognizing the position of China as regards Thibet, the influence of the Chinese Government would be used to secure the due observance of the Lhasa Convention. In view of the action which has been taken by Chang Ta-jên, His Majesty's Government consider that it is necessary to have a clear understanding that the influence of the Chinese Government will be so used.

In conclusion, I am instructed to state that His Majesty's Government would prefer to adjust all the matters referred to satisfactorily with China, and that, pending the reply of the Chinese Government to this communication, they will not address any request to the Thibetan Government directly, as they would be entitled to do under the Lhasa Convention.

*Peking, February 19, 1907.*



## Inclosure 2 in No. 144.

*Memorandum communicated by Wai-wu Pu to Sir J. Jordan on February 27, 1907.*

(Translation.)

IN the Memorandum received by the Wai-wu Pu on the 19th February, 1907, it was stated that, according to reports which had reached the Government of India, his Excellency Chang Yin-tang desired to remove all Chinese officials who had been instrumental in improving the relations between British and Tibetans; that his Excellency Yu-t'ai, who was concerned in the negotiation of the Lhasa Convention, had been relieved of office and imprisoned; that his Excellency's Secretary had been imprisoned; that the former Shigatse and Chumbi Popons and two other Chinese officials had been degraded; and that similar action was being taken against Tibetan officials concerned in negotiations with the British authorities, Yutok Shape and General Tang having been degraded. Sir John Jordan was instructed to point out that any punishment of Chinese or Tibetan officials for having been concerned in the negotiations of the Lhasa Convention was not compatible with the Convention of April 1906.

The Wai-wu Pu desire to state that Chang Ta-jên was appointed by Imperial Decree a High Commissioner to inquire into Tibetan affairs, with authority to investigate charges against Government officers. In the present instance, Yu Ta-jên has been guilty of corruption, and has incurred the penalty of the law on that account. His Excellency's Secretary, the Tibetan officials, and the rest have also incurred punishment for acts of corruption; and though all are under surveillance, pending judgment, no one has been imprisoned, and no one has been punished for having been concerned in Treaty negotiations.

The Memorandum also states that the attitude of the Chinese authorities towards the Tashi Lama has given grounds for apprehension, and that, as the Lama's visit to Calcutta was purely ceremonial, any action taken against him which would punish him for making that visit, or treat it as an offence, would not be consistent with courteous and cordial relations.

As regards this, the Wai-wu Pu would mention that the expenses incurred by the Tashi Lama on this visit to India, which was one of ceremony, were defrayed by Chang Ta-jên. Chang Ta-jên also sent men to help to look after the Lama while he was ill at Darjeeling, and was warmly thanked for his courtesy. Of course there is no intention of punishing the Tashi Lama for his visit.

The Memorandum further mentions that in a telegram from Chang Ta-jên it was stated that five more important Tibetan officials had been appointed as deputies at the three trade marts, and that in a telegram from the Viceroy of India it was stated that Chang Ta-jên had addressed a letter to the Indian Foreign Secretary announcing the appointment of Chinese officers at the trade marts for the conduct of international and trade affairs, and asking for the names and ranks of the British Trade Agents. Sir John Jordan presumed that the Tibetan officials referred to in Chang Ta-jên's telegram were appointed after the Chinese officials mentioned in the telegram from the Viceroy of India. He represented that these Chinese officials could not be regarded as taking the place of the Tibetan Agents of Article V of the Lhasa Convention, and inquired what were the exact duties and status of the Chinese officials appointed by Chang Ta-jên. He added that in no circumstances could Chinese officials be allowed to interfere with the freedom of intercourse between the British Trade Agent and the Tibetan Agent at Gyantse.

The Wai-wu Pu wish to state that the Chinese officials are appointed by Chang Ta-jên for the sole purpose of opening the trade marts in accordance with Treaty, and it is their duty to maintain courteous relations with British and Tibetan officials. The Chinese Government is under a Treaty engagement to take steps to secure the due opening of the trade marts, and the general tenour of the instructions issued to Chang Ta-jên has been based on this engagement. There has been some misunderstanding, however, due to the condensed language of the telegrams, and further instructions will be issued to Chang Ta-jên to insure that the terms of the Anglo-Chinese Convention (of 1906) are in all respects carried out by amicable consultation with the British authorities.

The Wai-wu Pu trust that relations will be more cordial as the result of these instructions, and they beg Sir John Jordan to be so good as to inform His Majesty's Government of the contents of this Memorandum.



[13234]

No. 145.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 24.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, with reference to the letters from the Foreign Office of the 17th and 20th instant, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 22nd April, relative to affairs in Thibet.

*India Office, April 24, 1907.*


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Inclosure in No. 145.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.  
THIBET.

*India Office, April 22, 1907.*

Your telegram dated the 28th ultimo.

Proposed instructions to Trade Agent, Gyantse, respecting woman shot by sepoy, are approved by His Majesty's Government, who also sanction proposal that question of jurisdiction in mixed cases should be postponed until trade regulations are under discussion. When he is in a position to reply to Chinese proposals regarding negotiation of trade regulations, His Majesty's Ambassador at Peking will be instructed to bring incident to notice of Chinese Government, and to urge more strongly necessity for free direct communications between local authorities and British Agent.

Reference is invited to my telegram of the 16th instant, to which it is desirable that early reply should be returned.

As regards exchange of visits between Gow and O'Connor, referred to in your telegram dated the 15th April, instructions have been sent to Sir J. Jordan to inform Chinese Government that though His Majesty's Government have no objection to Captain O'Connor paying first call as a matter of courtesy, they cannot, until they have learnt of fulfilment of Chinese orders as to placing no obstacles in way of direct communications between Thibetans and British, authorize Captain O'Connor to make the visit. Any action Chinese may take to carry out instructions as to direct communications should be reported to me.

With reference to last words of your telegram of the 15th instant, I presume Captain O'Connor has already been instructed in accordance with my telegram of the 20th ultimo as to his adopting amicable and conciliatory attitude.

I shall be glad if you would repeat above to Peking, and also your telegram of the 15th instant.

[13656]

No. 146.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 29.)*

(No. 219.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, April 22, 1907.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 145 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith an *aide-mémoire* which I left with M. Isvolsky this afternoon, in reply to the Memorandum which his Excellency had communicated to me respecting the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) A NICOLSON.

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Inclosure in No. 146.

*Aide-mémoire communicated to Russian Government, April 9 (22), 1907.*

HIS Majesty's Embassy had the honour to receive the Memorandum, in which it was suggested that a paragraph should be added to the annex to the Thibetan Convention regarding the occupation of the Chumbi Valley. The paragraph in question



was to the effect that if the occupation, for some cause or another, were prolonged over the specified period, "les Gouvernements Britannique et Russe entreraient dans un échange de vues amical concernant le terme définitif de l'évacuation."

His Majesty's Embassy is authorized to accept this additional paragraph, provided that the words "concernant le terme définitif de l'évacuation" are omitted.

His Majesty's Embassy would wish to point out that the evacuation of the Chumbi Valley is entirely dependent on the fulfilment by the Thibetan Government of the Convention of 1904, and it is clear that His Britannic Majesty's Government could not agree to discuss with another Power whether the stipulations of the Convention of 1904 had been complied with.

His Majesty's Embassy is, however, enabled to state that there is no reason to anticipate that the stipulations will not be fulfilled, and that His Britannic Majesty's Government are sincerely desirous that the date of the evacuation should not in any way be retarded.

[14247]

No. 147.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 2.)*

Sir,

*India Office, May 1, 1907.*

IN reply to Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 10th ultimo, forwarding copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Peking No. 57, dated the 8th April, as to the proposals of the Chinese Government for the negotiation of Trade Regulations for the marts in Thibet under the terms of the Lhasa Convention, I am directed to inclose, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of telegraphic correspondence with the Viceroy.

Mr. Secretary Morley agrees generally in the views expressed in the letter under reply, and would suggest, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, that the Chinese Government should be informed that His Majesty's Government will not insist on their right, under Article III of the Convention of 1904, to negotiate the Trade Regulations exclusively with Delegates of the Thibetan Government, but that the Government of India will be authorized to appoint a Representative of suitable rank with the necessary powers to conduct the negotiations with a fully authorized Delegate of the Thibetan Government to be associated with Mr. Chang for the purpose on this occasion. The Thibetan Delegate must be appointed by the Thibetan Government before the negotiations are commenced with full powers to negotiate and sign on their behalf, and in such a manner as to make it impossible for them to disclaim responsibility for the settlement arrived at. It is assumed that the Chinese Government will have no objection to the negotiations taking place at the head-quarters of the Indian Government at Simla and not at Calcutta.

As regards the suggestion in the Viceroy's telegram of the 23rd April, that Thibetan Trade Agents should be appointed at once, Mr. Morley is of opinion, subject to Sir E. Grey's concurrence, that it will suffice if the freedom of direct communications between the British Trade Agent at Gyantse and the local Thibetan authorities, which existed before the appearance of Mr. Chang and Mr. Gow on the scene, is restored. The Government of India have been instructed to report what action has been taken by Mr. Chang to carry out the orders of the Chinese Government on the subject, reported in Sir J. Jordan's telegram No. 53 of the 26th March.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 147.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, April 16, 1907.*

PLEASE see telegram dated the 8th April, regarding Thibet Trade Regulations, from His Majesty's Minister at Peking. Balance of advantage, in view of strained situation at Gyantse, seems all in favour of negotiations at Calcutta. Thibetan officials



must be associated with settlement in such a way as to make it impossible for Lhasa Government to disclaim responsibility for it, but, having regard to desirability of early settlement, to insist too strongly on Article III of 1904 Convention would be a mistake. Subject to any criticisms you may wish to make, reply to Sir J. Jordan in this sense is proposed.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 147.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*April 23, 1907.*

TELEGRAM dated the 8th instant from His Majesty's Minister at Peking, Thibet. Necessity of participation of Thibetan Delegates under Article III of Lhasa Convention, which your telegram of the 5th July last enjoined, is ignored by Chinese proposal for discussion of Trade Regulations. Sir E. Grey's telegram of the 9th ultimo to Sir J. Jordan pointed out necessity for appointment of Thibetan Trade Agents, and it was only pending a reply from China that direct reference to Lhasa was withheld. Chinese reply can only be regarded as further attempt at evasion of obligations of Convention of 1904. Considerable time may be occupied by framing of Trade Regulations in discussion with Chinese. Trade marts would meanwhile be left without Thibetan Trade Agents, and, although strictest orders have been issued to our officers to observe friendly and correct attitude, awkward consequences may result from continuance of deadlock in Thibet. Appointment of Chinese Diplomatic and commercial Representatives was, it will be observed, deemed immediately necessary.

It might therefore be considered, we venture to suggest, whether it is not now time to inform China that appointment of Thibetan Trade Agents must at once be carried out; that we propose to make to Thibetan Government direct reference as provided by the Convention of 1904, seeing that nothing has resulted from our representations at Peking; and that we trust Thibetan Government will see necessity for complying with Treaty if moved both by China and by Great Britain. We would propose that discussion of Trade Regulations, which we are quite ready to discuss with Chang, though a Thibetan Representative of adequate rank should be present, should take place at Simla, where we can insure, should this become necessary, representatives of different British trades concerned are present.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 147.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*April 24, 1907.*

PLEASE see my telegram of yesterday, with reference to yours of the 16th April, as to the proposals of the Chinese Government on the subject of the Thibet Trade Regulations. As will be seen from last paragraph of my telegram, most convenient arrangement to us would be that negotiations should be conducted at Simla, which we assume would be as acceptable as Calcutta to Chinese Government. We agree as to undesirability of Gyantse. We also agree that, while Thibetan officials should be associated with settlement in such a manner as to make it impossible for Lhasa Government to disclaim responsibility, it would be as well not to insist too strongly on Article III of Convention, by which it is required that negotiations should be conducted by Thibetan Delegates. But we consider that the desired result could only be secured by requiring that Lhasa Government should appoint high Thibetan official with our assent, and that official should accompany Chang to Simla, and be a party to negotiations. It should be possible to arrange this without difficulty, as there are following two precedents for Thibetan officials visiting India:—

1. In 1892 a high official named Shata came with Chinese Commissioners to Darjeeling. Unfortunately this appointment was not made in consultation with the Indian Government, and consequently Thibetan Government ignored his presence, whence arose difficulties leading eventually to the Lhasa Mission of 1904.

2. The Sechung Shape came to Calcutta in 1906 in connection with payment of indemnity.



[14215]

No. 148.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 2.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegrams relative to the affairs of Thibet.

A copy has been sent to the Director of Military Operations.

*India Office, May 2, 1907.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 148.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*April 24, 1907.*

THIBET.

Please see despatch of 4th ultimo and telegram of the 27th February from His Majesty's Minister at Peking. Tashi Lama was never ill, and none of his expenses were paid by Chinese Government.

Case of Sechung Shape, who travelled under auspices of Chinese Government, has been misquoted by them by error or by intention.

No mention of appointment of Thibetan agents at marts, it will be noted, is made by Wai-wu Pu in their reply.

Inclosure 2 in No. 148.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, April 25, 1907.*

THIBET.

Tashi Lama's visit to Calcutta.

I should be glad if you would repeat to Peking, with omission of last sentence, your telegram of the 24th April respecting telegram of the 27th February from Sir J. Jordan.

[14365]

No. 149.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 3.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegrams relative to the proposal to send an official to the Gartok marts.

*India Office, May 3, 1907.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 149.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*April 22, 1907.*

THIBET.

In accordance with precedents of 1905 and 1906, we propose, subject to your approval, to send an official from the United Provinces, probably a native, to Gartok marts, in order that, pending settlement of Trade Regulations, fair play as regards illegal imposts may be insured to our traders.



## Inclosure 2 in No. 149.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, April 30, 1907.*

THIBET. Your telegram dated the 22nd April.

In present circumstances deputation of officer, even native, to Gartok appears to me most inopportune and likely to lead to further assertion of rights on part of Chinese. I regret, therefore, that I am unable to agree to proposal. Please refer to Memorandum of conversation between Sir L. Dane and Chang Ta-jên on the 25th June, 1906, in which latter's remarks as to posting Chinese official at Gartok are recorded. Report of Mr. Calvert's visit in 1906 will, I presume, reach me in due course.

[14410]

No. 150.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 4.)*

(No. 135.)

Sir,

*Peking, March 18, 1907.*

AS reported in my telegram No. 35 of the 1st March, I communicated to the Grand Secretary Na-tung and his Excellency Tong Shoa-yi the circumstances connected with M. Sven Hedin's arrival at Shigatse and the instructions which had been issued to Captain O'Connor. Comment was also made on the general attitude of Mr. Gow (Kao) in this and other matters.

I was informed that the Wai-wu Pu had received a telegram from Chang Ta-jên on the subject, in which it was stated that M. Hedin held a passport issued by the British Foreign Office and countersigned by the Chinese Minister in London, authorizing him to travel in Chinese Turkestan. On reference to the Wai-wu Pu records it was found that, according to a report of Wang Ta-jên, permission had been given to M. Hedin to travel in the New Dominion up the borders of Thibet only, and that you had been informed of this. For that reason Wang Ta-jên had been told by telegram eight or ten days previously of M. Hedin's disregard of the terms of his permission, and had been instructed to see you on the subject.

On the 12th March I called at the Wai-wu Pu and communicated the substance of your later telegram No. 27 of the 9th March, and their Excellencies explained that the statement that the passport was issued by the Foreign Office emanated from the Chinese deputy at Shigatse, who must have misunderstood some document shown to him, and that Wang Ta-jên had not approached you because M. Hedin's departure from Shigatse seemed to make this unnecessary. They appreciated the awkward situation in which Captain O'Connor had been placed, and promised to do their utmost to prohibit foreign explorers entering Thibet from Chinese territory, but pointed out that the geographical conditions made the task peculiarly difficult.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

[14413]

No. 151.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 4.)*

(No. 138.)

Sir,

*Peking, March 19, 1907.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to you copy of a despatch which I have addressed to the Viceroy of India, inclosing copy of a note from the Chinese Government, in which they inform me of the appointment of Chang Yü T'ang as Acting Commissioner of Customs at Yatung, and deputy at that place of Chang-ta-ch'ên, the Chinese Special Commissioner to Thibet.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.



Inclosure 1 in No. 151.

*Sir J. Jordan to the Earl of Minto.*

My Lord,

*Peking, March 18, 1907.*

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a note from the Wai-wu Pu, in which they ask me to inform the Government of India that Chang Yü T'ang has been appointed Acting Commissioner of Customs at Yatung, and that he has also been nominated by Chang-ta-ch'ên, the Chinese Special Commissioner to Thibet, to be his Excellency's deputy at that place.

At a recent interview at the Wai-wu Pu, the Ministers mentioned to me that Chang Yü T'ang was proceeding at once to his post via Calcutta, and expressed a hope that I would move the Government of India to grant him any facilities of which he might stand in need on his way through India.

Chang Yü T'ang, who was here for some time as an assistant in the Customs, has a good knowledge of English, and is regarded by Sir Robert Hart as a man of capacity and conciliatory disposition.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 151.

*Wai-wu Pu to Sir J. Jordan.*

(Translation.)

*March 17, 1907.*

Sir,

THIS Board was informed some time ago, by a communication from one of the Ministers of the Revenue Council, that the Inspector-General of Customs had reported the application for home leave of Mr. Henderson, Acting Commissioner of Customs at Yatung, and had suggested that a Chinese in the Customs at Ichang, named Chang Yü T'ang, would be a suitable person to be appointed Acting Commissioner in his place.

The Minister of the Revenue Council further stated that Mr. Chang, under telegraphic instructions from the Inspector-General, had come to Peking, and that he had been found to possess a good knowledge of English and of Customs business, fully qualifying him for promotion to the post of Commissioner of Customs at Yatung, to which he would be appointed as Acting Commissioner. The Inspector-General of Customs had accordingly been directed to issue the necessary instructions.

The Board has also been informed by Chang-ta-ch'ên, the Special Commissioner to Thibet, by telegraph, that as Yatung is opened as a trade mart he has now appointed Mr. Chang Yü T'ang, the Commissioner of Customs at that place, to be also his deputy at Yatung.

We therefore have the honour to inform your Excellency of these communications, which we hope may be brought to the knowledge of the Government of India, with the request that they will be good enough to afford facilities to Mr. Chang Yü T'ang should occasion arise.

We avail, &c.

[14542]

No. 152.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 4.)*

(No. 73.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*St. Petersburg, May 4, 1907.*

RUSSIAN Government agree to omission of words "concerning the definite term of the evacuation" in text of annexe concerning Chumbi Valley occupation, and, to complete sentence, wish to substitute for them the words "on the subject."

Am I authorized to agree to text as now worded?



[14867]

No. 153.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 7.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 28th March, relative to Thibet affairs.

*India Office, May 6, 1907.*

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Inclosure 1 in No. 153.*Captain O'Connor to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Gyantse, March 16, 1907.*

GOW writes, in letter headed Bureau of Commerce and Foreign Affairs, Gyantse, dated the 14th March, to say, with reference to assault case on Thibetan woman by sepoy of my escort, as reported in my telegram dated the 4th March, that Chang has instructed him to inform me that no such mixed case should have been tried without the Chinese Commissioner being informed and being present. He adds that, unless there is a rehearing of this case by joint Commissioners, the Chinese will be compelled to adopt similar measures in the event of assault by natives upon British soldiers or subjects. By this latter remark he means, apparently, that in the event of assault by Thibetans on British subjects the case will be investigated by him, without reference to me. As already reported, I requested the local Thibetan authorities to be present at the investigation of this case, and as they declined to come, I investigated the case without them. I would direct the attention of Government to the fact that, in his letter, Gow makes no mention whatever of Thibetan authorities, but claims the right to investigate with me cases between British and Thibetan subjects. I anticipate he will take prompt measures to enable him to carry into execution his threat regarding Chinese action in the event of assault by natives on British subjects, and I venture to point out that the situation here has now reached a point when we can no longer submit to Chinese pretensions without seriously endangering the safety of British subjects in Thibet and surrendering all results of the Mission to Lhasa.

(Addressed to Foreign ; repeated to Political Officer, Sikkim.)

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Inclosure 2 in No. 153.*Government of India to Captain O'Connor.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Calcutta, March 20, 1907.*

YOUR telegram dated the 16th March : assault by sepoy.

Please report exactly what steps were taken by you in investigation of case. Your action was doubtless purely informal, since you possess no magisterial powers, and disposal of such cases is governed by orders contained in this Department letter dated the 3rd May, 1905, which were presumably followed in disposal of previous case referred to in Bailey's diaries of the 9th and 20th March, 1906. Question of grant of magisterial powers to you is under consideration, but there are legal difficulties.

(Addressed Trade Agent, Gyantse ; repeated Political Officer, Sikkim.)

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Inclosure 3 in No. 153.*Captain O'Connor to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Gyantse, March 22, 1907.*

YOUR telegram dated the 20th March.

My share in investigation of case in question was merely informal character, and consisted in hearing statements of Thibetan complainants and in translating them for benefit of officer in command of detachment here, who afterwards administered such



punishment as he considered fit under military law. I requested the Jongpens to attend inquiry, but, as already reported, they declined to do so after consultation with Mr. Gow. I am not aware what steps were taken by Mr. Bailey in case reported in his diary of the 9th March, 1906, but, as useful precedent, would refer to mixed case in my diary of the 8th July, 1905. It will be observed that Representatives of every nationality in Thibet—Chinese, Thibetan, and Nepalese—are in a position to maintain order over their subordinates. Representative of Indian Government alone has no powers to investigate or to adjudicate upon offences committed by British subjects or employes. As all such cases are referred to him by local authority, he is placed in obviously false position.

(Addressed Foreign; repeated Political Officer, Sikkim.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 153.

*Diary of Captain O'Connor, British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for the week ending March 9, 1907.*

March 3, 1907.—A Thibetan, resident in Gyantse, a former employé in the hospital here, came to me in the evening to complain that two sepoys had entered his house in the town during the afternoon, and after some dispute one of them had shot his wife in the hand. The woman accompanied him, and was treated by the medical officer that evening for the wound in question, which was not of a serious nature. The officer in command of my escort at once had two sepoys, who were suspected of the assault, confined in the guard-room.

March 4.—I sent word to the Jongpens that it was proposed to investigate the case of assault against the Thibetan woman at 12 noon, and requested them to be present during the proceedings. On receiving my message they at once went to Mr. Gow and asked him what they should do. He forbade them to come and see me, and they sent me a letter to say that, having consulted with the "Agent" and having received no reply from him, they were unable to come. So as they failed to put in an appearance, I investigated the case with the assistance of Lieutenant Auchinleck, officer in command of my escort; and having taken down the evidence, Lieutenant Auchinleck awarded a fitting punishment to the sepoys in view of the facts elicited. It appears that the two men had been shooting on the hillside during the day, and were returning to the post in the afternoon through the bazaar when they entered the Thibetan complainant's house and the disturbance in question took place.

March 5.—The Jongpens (or rather their representatives during their absence) sent word to me privately to say that they had been forbidden by Mr. Gow the day before to come and see me with reference to the assault case; that they themselves were quite willing to come, but that they dared not disobey Mr. Gow.

I received a letter from Mr. Gow, asking me what steps had been taken in the matter of the assault of a Thibetan woman by our sepoys.

March 6.—I replied to Mr. Gow, asking him to be so kind as to inform me in what way he was interested in the matter in question. He replied that his interest was such as might be permitted in civilized countries.

March 7.—I replied to Mr. Gow's last letter to say that his disinterested inquiries in the cause of humanity did him the highest credit, and that he would be pleased to hear that the matter in question had been carefully investigated and that justice had been impartially administered.

Inclosure 5 in No. 153.

*Captain O'Connor to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Gyantse, March 4, 1907.*

CASE of assault occurred here yesterday by sepoy shooting Thibetan woman in hand. As you are aware, British Trade Agent has no jurisdiction in such cases and no authority ever to investigate them. Military and medical officers here and their staffs are quite independent of British Trade Agent, who has no control whatever over them. I have already called attention to this matter in my letter dated 28th March last, as have also Mr. Bailey in his letter dated 11th December, and Mr. Bell in



paragraph 2 of his Inspection Report of Gyantse dated 25th October. I regard it as essential that orders on this subject should be issued at earliest moment on lines suggested in my letter, more especially in view of recent Chinese action in Thibet and complaints regarding British employes. I would respectfully urge attention of the Government of India to this and previous communications on subject, and would solicit early instructions.

(Addressed Foreign; repeated Political, Sikkim.)

[14542]

No. 154.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

(Secret.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 7, 1907.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 13th ultimo, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you a copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg,\* stating that the Russian Government agree to omit the words "concerning the definite term of evacuation" in the annex respecting the British evacuation of the Chumbi Valley to the Anglo-Russian Agreement on the subject of Thibet.

Sir A. Nicolson inquires if he may agree to the substitution, therefore, of the words "on the subject," and Sir E. Grey proposes, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State for India, to reply in the affirmative.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[14247]

No. 155.

*Sr Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 46.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, May 8, 1907.*

TRADE Regulations for Thibet.

Your telegram No. 57 of the 8th April.

You should inform the Chinese Government that the Government of India will be authorized to appoint a Representative of suitable rank with the necessary powers to negotiate with a fully authorized Delegate of the Thibetan Government, to be associated with Chang for the purpose on this occasion, but that His Majesty's Government will not insist on their right, under Article III of the Convention of 1904, to negotiate trade Regulations exclusively with Delegates of the Thibetan Government.

You should explain that the Thibetan Government must appoint their Delegate before the commencement of the negotiations, with full powers to negotiate and sign on their behalf, and in such a manner that they cannot disclaim responsibility for any settlement which may be arrived at between the Delegates.

We presume Chinese Government have no objection to Simla, head-quarters of Indian Government, instead of Calcutta being selected as the seat of the negotiations.

[15071]

No. 156.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 9.)*

(No. 74.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Peking, May 8, 1907.*

THIBET. Please see your telegram No. 42 of the 19th ultimo.

I duly communicated the substance of your message to the Wai-wu Pu.

The following is a summary of a telegram from Chang, copy of which has been furnished to me by the Board:—

"Although O'Connor arrived at Gyantse after Mr. Gow, he did not pay him a call, and so the Thibetan officials in their turn did not call on O'Connor when they arrived. Gow was repeatedly told; in pursuance of telegraphic instructions received from the Wai-wu Pu, that he must allow direct intercourse, in accordance with Treaty, between

\* No. 152.



the British officials and the Thibetans. Gow has reported that he is carrying out these instructions. The British Agent at Gyantse having now, therefore, direct relations with the Thibetans, and now that trade is being carried on in a friendly manner without any forced sales or arbitrary prices, the situation will be improved in the future if the intimation received from His Majesty's Government that O'Connor should pay Gow a call is carried into effect."

I have repeated the above to the Government of India.

[15182]

No. 157.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 9.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 8th instant, relative to affairs in Thibet.

*India Office, May 9, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 157.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

May 8, 1907

THIBET (see your telegram dated the 22nd ultimo).

Trade Agent, Gyantse, telegraphed the 30th ultimo as follows:—

"See your telegram of yesterday. No action authorizing Thibetans to carry out Wai-wu Pu's instructions regarding freedom of direct communications between myself and Thibetan authorities appears hitherto to have been taken by Chinese. On the contrary, I have not yet received call from Representatives of Lhasa Government here, and embargo respecting Tashi Lama is still in existence. Also Thibetan Depon, who has been appointed Thibetan Government's Representative at Chumbi Valley trade mart, has just passed through Gyantse without calling on me. Word was sent by him privately, through my Thibetan clerk, that strict orders were left behind him by Mr. Gow forbidding Thibetan officials to communicate with me or to visit me. Any alteration in situation will be reported immediately."

[15383]

No. 158.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 11.)*

Sir,

*India Office, May 10, 1907.*

WITH reference to Sir F. Campbell's letter of the 20th ultimo, transmitting copy of a telegram addressed to His Majesty's Minister at Peking regarding the attitude of the Chinese authorities at Gyantse, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to invite the attention of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 8th May, copy of which was communicated to the Foreign Office on the 9th instant.

In view of the further information now received, Mr. Secretary Morley would suggest that Sir J. Jordan should be instructed to represent once more to the Chinese Government the necessity of giving prompt and unmistakable effect to their orders, as reported in his Excellency's telegram No. 53 of the 26th March last, that no obstacles are to be placed in the way of direct relations between British officials and Thibetan officials and people.

In this connection I am to refer to the final paragraph of my letter of the 1st May, which expressed the view that if freedom of communications was restored there would be no need to insist on the immediate appointment of Thibetan Trade Agents.

If Sir E. Grey concurs in this view Mr. Morley will instruct the Government of India to repeat their telegram of the 8th May to Peking.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

A. GODLEY.



[15381]

No. 159.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 11.)*

Sir,

*India Office, May 10, 1907.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, stating, with reference to the draft Anglo-Russian Agreement on the subject of Thibet, that the Russian Government agree to omit from the Annex, relating to the evacuation of the Chumbi Valley, the words "concerning the definite term of evacuation."

In reply, I am to say that Mr. Secretary Morley concurs in the proposal of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to substitute the words "on the subject" for those which the Russian Government have agreed to omit.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[15474]

No. 160.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 13.)*

(No. 241.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, May 4, 1907.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of an *aide-mémoire*, with its inclosure, which I have received from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, stating that the Russian Government agree to the omission of the words "concernant le terme définitif de l'évacuation" from the Annex to the Thibetan Convention concerning the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley. They wish to replace the above words by "à ce sujet," in order to complete the phrase, and it seems to me that this substitution is unobjectionable.

I had informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs verbally that His Majesty's Government accepted the terms of the Russian draft note concerning scientific missions, but I have now communicated this assurance in an *aide-mémoire*, of which I beg leave to inclose a copy.

For convenience of reference, I transmit copies of the Annex to the Thibetan Convention and also of the note concerning scientific missions in French and English, and I should be grateful if you would inform me if you would wish any corrections made in the English translations of the French text.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 160.

*Aide-mémoire.*

LE Ministère des Affaires Étrangères a eu l'honneur de recevoir l'aide-mémoire de l'Ambassade Britannique en date du 10 (23) Avril courant au sujet de l'occupation de la Vallée de Chumby par les forces Anglaises.

Prenant acte du désir énoncé par le Gouvernement Britannique de ne pas voir retardée la date fixée pour l'évacuation de cette partie du territoire Thibétain, le Gouvernement Impérial est prêt à omettre dans le texte de l'Annexe à la Convention concernant le Thibet les mots "concernant le terme définitif de l'évacuation" en les remplaçant par "à ce sujet" pour compléter la phrase au point de vue de la rédaction. Le texte ainsi arrêté se trouve ci-joint.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de l'Ambassade Britannique le Gouvernement Impérial aime à espérer qu'il pourra recevoir une réponse favorable quant au projet de note ayant trait aux expéditions scientifiques dans le Thibet et soumis à l'approbation du Cabinet de Londres.

*Saint-Petersbourg, le 20 Avril (3 Mai), 1907.*

[1722]

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## Inclosure 2 in No. 160.

*Annex to Thibetan Convention between Great Britain and Russia.*

LA Grande-Bretagne réaffirme la Déclaration signée par son Excellence le Vice-Roi et Gouverneur-Général des Indes et annexée à la ratification de la Convention du 7 Septembre, 1904, stipulant que l'occupation de la Vallée de Chumby par les forces Britanniques prendra fin après le paiement des trois annuités de 25,00,000 roupies, à condition que les places de marché mentionnées dans l'Article II de la dite Convention soient effectivement ouvertes depuis trois ans, et que les autorités Thibétaines durant cette période se conforment strictement sous tous les rapports aux termes de la dite Convention de 1904. Il est bien entendu que si l'occupation de la Vallée de Chumby par les forces Britanniques n'aura pas pris fin, pour quelque raison que ce soit, à l'époque prévue par la Déclaration précitée, les Gouvernements Britannique et Russe entreranno dans un échange de vues amical à ce sujet.

## Inclosure 3 in No. 160.

*Aide-mémoire.—(Communicated May 4, 1907.)*

HIS Majesty's Embassy has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the *aide-mémoire* of the 20th April (3rd May), stating that the Imperial Government are willing to omit the words "concernant le terme définitif de l'évacuation" from the text of the Annex to the Convention regarding Thibet.

His Majesty's Embassy begs leave to inform the Imperial Minister for Foreign Affairs that His Majesty's Government accept the text of the note regarding scientific expeditions to Thibet, which was communicated by the Imperial Government in the *pro-memoria* of the 13th (26th) March, 1907.

## Inclosure 4 in No. 160.

*Draft Annex to Thibetan Convention.*

LA Grande-Bretagne réaffirme la Déclaration signée par son Excellence le Vice-Roi et Gouverneur-Général des Indes et annexée à la ratification de la Convention du 7 Septembre, 1904, stipulant que l'occupation de la Vallée de Chumby par les forces Britanniques prendra fin après le paiement des trois annuités de 25,00,000 roupies, à condition que les places de marché mentionnées dans l'Article II de la dite Convention soient effectivement ouvertes depuis trois ans, et que les autorités Thibétaines durant cette période se conforment strictement sous tous les rapports aux termes de la dite Convention de 1904. Il est bien entendu que si l'occupation de la Vallée de Chumby par les forces Britanniques n'aura pas pris fin, pour quelque raison que ce soit, à l'époque prévue par la Déclaration précitée, les Gouvernements Britannique et Russe entreranno dans un échange de vues amical à ce sujet.

GREAT BRITAIN reaffirms the Declaration signed by his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India appended to the ratified Convention of the 7th September, 1904, and stipulating that the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley shall cease after the due payment of the three annual instalments of the indemnity of 25,00,000 rupees, provided that the trade marts as mentioned in Article II of the said Convention shall have been effectively opened for three years, and that, in the meantime, the Thibetan authorities shall have faithfully complied with the terms of the said Convention of 1904 in all other respects. It is understood that if the occupation of the Chumbi Valley by the British forces shall not have terminated, for some reason or other, at the date indicated in the above-mentioned Declaration, the British and Russian Governments will enter into a friendly interchange of views on the subject.



## Inclosure 5 in No. 160.

*Draft Project of Note.*

ME référant à la Convention au sujet du Thibet, signée aujourd'hui, j'ai l'honneur de faire savoir à votre Excellence la Déclaration suivante :—

Le Gouvernement Britannique juge utile, pour autant qu'il dépendra de lui, de ne pas admettre, sauf accord préalable avec le Gouvernement Russe, pour une durée de trois ans, à partir de la date de la présente communication, l'entrée au Thibet d'une mission scientifique quelconque, à condition toutefois qu'une assurance pareille soit donnée de la part du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie.

Le Gouvernement Britannique se propose en outre de s'adresser au Gouvernement Chinois afin de faire agréer à ce dernier une obligation analogue pour une période correspondante ; il va de soi que la même démarche sera faite par le Gouvernement Russe.

A l'expiration du terme précité, le Gouvernement Britannique avisera d'un commun accord avec le Gouvernement Russe à l'opportunité, s'il y a lieu, de mesures ultérieures à prendre concernant les expéditions scientifiques au Thibet.

WITH reference to the Convention concerning Thibet signed to-day, I have the honour to make the following Declaration to your Excellency :—

The British Government consider it to be desirable not to allow, without previous agreement with the Russian Government, and so far as it lies in their power, the entry of scientific missions into Thibet for a period of three years from the date of the present communication, on the understanding that a similar assurance is given by the Imperial Russian Government.

Furthermore, the British Government propose to address themselves to the Chinese Government with the view of obtaining the consent of the latter to a like undertaking for a corresponding period, always on the understanding that the Russian Government will take a similar step.

On the expiration of the above-mentioned term, the British Government will consider, in accord with the Russian Government, as to the expediency, should such exist, of further measures being adopted concerning scientific missions to Thibet.

[15381]

No. 161.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 63.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, May 13, 1907.*

CHUMBI Valley occupation.

With reference to your telegram No. 73 of the 4th instant, you are authorized to agree to the substitution of the words "on the subject" for the words "concerning the definite term of evacuation."

[15383]

No. 162.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 52.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, May 13, 1907.*

DIRECT communication between British and Thibetan Agents. Your telegram No. 74 of the 8th and the Viceroy of India's telegram of the same date.

Gow is evidently ignoring the orders of the Chinese Government which you reported in your telegram No 53 of the 26th March, and you should again urge on them the necessity for him to give prompt and unmistakable effect to those orders.

His Majesty's Government would not insist upon the immediate appointment of the Thibetan trade agents if freedom of communications is restored, and this would apparently meet their wishes.

See last paragraph of your telegram No. 57.



[15383]

No. 163.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

(Secret.)

*Foreign Office, May 15, 1907.*

Sir,

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, regarding the attitude of the Chinese authorities at Gyantse.

I am to express Sir E. Grey's concurrence in the views of the Secretary of State for India, and to state that a telegram, copy of which is inclosed,\* has been addressed to His Majesty's Minister at Peking, requesting him to represent again to the Chinese Government the necessity for Mr. Gow to give prompt and unmistakable effect to their orders to allow direct communication between British and Thibetan officials, which orders Mr. Gow was evidently ignoring.

Sir J. Jordan has also been informed that, if freedom of communication is restored, His Majesty's Government will not insist on the immediate appointment of Thibetan Trade Agents.

A copy of a telegram on the subject from Sir J. Jordan is also inclosed for Mr. Secretary Morley's information.†

I am, &c.  
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[15474]

No. 164.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 65.)

*Foreign Office, May 17, 1907.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN negotiations respecting Thibet.

Inclosure 4 of your despatch No. 24 of the 4th May.

The French text would mean that 25 lacs would be the amount of each annual instalment.

It is possible that this is a clerical error. You might arrange for insertion of words "de l'indemnité" after "annuités."

[16196]

No. 165.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 18.)*

(No. 147.)

*Peking, March 23, 1907.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 92 of the 19th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to you, herewith, copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Ch'engtu forwarding translation of the Proclamation issued by the Imperial Chinese Commissioner for the new territory on the frontier of Thibet inviting the farming class of Szechuan to emigrate and colonize those districts.

Mr. Fox also incloses an interesting Memorandum on the subject of Chinese colonization of Eastern Thibet which the Rev. J. H. Edgar, of the China Inland Mission, who has travelled extensively in that region, was good enough to draw up for him.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 165.

*Acting Consul-General Fox to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 11.)

*Ch'engtu, February 23, 1907.*

Sir,

MR. GOFFE, in his despatch No. 2 of the 9th January, referred to a Proclamation issued by the Chao Erh Feng, the Imperial Commissioner for the new territory on the frontier of Thibet, inviting the farming class of Szechuan to emigrate and colonize

\* No. 162.

† No. 156.



these districts. I have now the honour to forward copy and translation of this Proclamation, together with a Memorandum on the subject of Chinese colonization of Eastern Thibet which the Rev. J. H. Edgar, of the China Inland Mission, who has travelled extensively in that region, has been good enough to prepare for me.

The Imperial Commissioner gives an attractive picture of the new territory, and holds out to intending colonists the inducements of payment of travelling expenses, grants of arable land with supply of grain and agricultural implements, and the protection of Chinese officials.

Mr. Edgar, on the other hand, thinks the scheme has small chance of succeeding, in the first place because he considers the Chinese pacification of this region is merely nominal and unlikely to be permanent, in the second place because it is hardly to be expected that the better class of farmers will be willing to exchange the fertile soil and temperate climate of Szechuan for the barren mountains and rigorous winters of Eastern Thibet. That the prospect of making a fresh start in life under favourable conditions will attract a certain number of emigrants is certain, but they will be of the class of failures and spendthrifts whose presence in a new Colony is not at all to be desired.

Unless colonization takes place on a large and well-organized scale it is most probable, as Mr. Edgar points out, that the new settlers will, in a few years' time, be absorbed by the sturdy, albeit uncivilized, border tribes, and that Chinese authority will become weaker and weaker until it ceases to exist except in name.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) HARRY H. FOX.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 165.

*Proclamation issued by his Excellency Chao Erh Feng, Commissioner in charge of the Yunnan-Szechuan Frontier, calling for Settlers for the new District of Batang.*

(Translation.)

THE following Proclamation is issued to make generally known a promising field where all and sundry may enrich themselves by bettering their means of livelihood.

Since my arrival in Szechuan some years ago my travels have led me into most parts of the province. In the course of these journeys I have observed that crops are raised on the mountain sides and the foreshores of the rivers; in some places, indeed, even the precipices are converted into arable land by means of earthworks. In view of these circumstances it was evident that the available land was insufficient to support the numerous inhabitants of the province, and I therefore felt it incumbent on me to find some better soil for your use. My investigations in Northern and Southern Szechuan, however, proved that little or no unoccupied ground was to be found there.

When last year I proceeded to Batang to take charge of the military operations there, I was under the impression that the country of the border tribes must be what our forefathers would have called "a howling wilderness," a place destitute of all good qualities.

On my arriving at Batang and Yen Ching, however, I found, to my surprise, that the soil was, on the contrary, excellent, and that oats sown in those districts attained a really luxuriant growth. This year I visited Hsiang Ch'êng and Tao Pa, where I found the fields to be even better. The water supply, moreover, was everywhere plentiful without being too great. The tribesmen in these parts are ignorant of the use of manure as a fertilizer, while their ploughs are of wood, and only turn up the soil to a depth of 2 or 3 inches; but their oats are notwithstanding extremely good. If they were to add manure, and use Chinese iron ploughs to break up the soil, their crops would probably be wonderful. The climate too is very similar to that of China, Litang (height above sea-level 13,234 feet) only being rather colder. This year, however, was warmer than last. The low temperature is probably due to the sparsity of population and the uncultivated state of the land. If the ground were reclaimed and planted with trees, this would set free the exhalations from the soil, and consequently produce greater warmth.

It may possibly be asked why such excellent land has lain fallow for more than 200 years. For this there are three reasons, namely:—

1. These districts were under the despotic rule of the native Chieftains, who refused permission even to the tribesmen to develop the country, much less then would they allow cultivation by Chinese.

[1722]

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2. Formerly in the districts beyond Ta Chien Lu the Grain Commissaries there established concerned themselves solely with the providing of transport and the forwarding of supplies and Chinese subjects who were oppressed by the natives or involved in land disputes had no official to whom they could appeal.

3. The troops stationed beyond the frontier were formerly so few in numbers that they only sufficed to fulfil the functions of couriers, and were totally inadequate to protect the people who lived in constant fear of violence from the mountain robbers ("chiapa" is Thibetan for robber).

These were the three reasons which deterred emigrants from proceeding thither. All anxiety from these causes is now at an end. The native Rulers have been abolished for ever, and their families deported to China. Who will now prevent you from going there?

Batang, Hsiang Ch'êng, and Litang have now local officials similar to those in China. Should you be involved in trouble you need simply appeal to the Court. The natives will assuredly no longer dare to impose on Chinese.

Armed posts have been established everywhere, and death was meted out last year to a great number of thieves and robbers, so little danger of violence is now to be anticipated from these gentry. Fear from these three causes is thus entirely removed, and on the other hand, the district offers three distinct advantages:—

1. Land in China is dear, the price of a *mou* ranging from 50 to 60 taels, while 20 to 30 taels must be paid even for the cheapest. Beyond the frontier farmers are simply invited to cultivate the ground, for which no price is asked, as a special act of compassion. Your efforts to improve the soil will be rewarded by its becoming your own property, and the only payment required from you is that of the land tax at the time of harvest.

2. Should you emigrate to other provinces to try and earn a living, you are obliged to provide your own travelling expenses. Persons proceeding beyond the frontier, however, to take up new land, and who can comply with the following requirements, namely, that they are—

- (a.) Of good antecedents, and have not been convicted of any crime;
- (b.) Under the age of 30 years, and possessed of good health and strength;
- (c.) Not opium smokers;
- (d.) Able to find satisfactory security that they will not turn back before they reach their destination;

may report themselves to the local official who will grant to them a certificate entitling them to travelling expenses, which will be granted to them according to the following scale. Each adult shall receive 1 mace of Ch'engt'u silver per day, the number of days to be calculated according to the distance of the applicant from Ta Chien Lu. Thus, if it will take an emigrant ten days to reach that place, ten days' travelling expenses will be advanced to him. If he be distant twenty days then he will receive twenty days' expenses. If wives are taken travelling expenses on the same scale may be drawn for them. Half the above rate will be allowed for children from 6 to 15 years, but no expenses will be granted for infants under 6 years of age.

On arrival at Ta Chien Lu emigrants will hand over their certificates at the sub-Prefectural yamên, when fresh certificates and expenses, from Ta Chien Lu onwards, will be provided. The sum allowed will cover all their expenses. As no food is procurable beyond the frontier, sustenance will also be provided by the officials, as also cattle for ploughing, seeds, and all agricultural implements. At harvest time the money, food, and grain, &c., borrowed must be refunded. If repayment cannot be made in one year, no objection will be raised to the refund being made in the course of two, three, or four years. In calculating this refund the amount of land cultivated and the nature of the harvest will be taken into consideration, the great object being to avoid causing settlers any hardships. On the complete repayment of these advances title-deeds covering the land taken up will be granted, and the property will become the settler's inheritance in perpetuity. Should settlers elect to wait until their farms are successful before bringing up their wives they are permitted to do so, but, as they will then be land-owners, they must themselves provide travelling expenses and sustenance, and there is no need for the officials to make such advances as this would occasion delay.

3. Living beyond the frontier is very cheap, and it is easy to keep pigs, cattle, sheep, and chickens, while the hill-sides are covered with fuel, which simply needs to be cut.



Emigrants who bring up their families will find that they can live much more economically than in China. The unmarried man, on the other hand, will find the women more numerous than the men among the border tribes. The females, moreover, are industrious, and the males lazy. A native girl taken as wife will prove of great assistance in the work, for these women perform all the carrying of water, cooking of food, hoeing of the ground, and cutting of firewood. Nor is any dowry necessary, for all that is needed are garments in which to clothe her.

The over-populated state of Szechuan renders the struggle for existence very difficult. Why then do you not hasten to this promising land? Lest those who dwell in distant parts of the province should be ignorant of this offer, I have issued this Proclamation and sent it to all the local officials to be posted everywhere, in order that you may all know and hasten thither to escape from the clutches of poverty. It is most essential that you should not doubt the integrity of my intentions, but should clearly realize that this step has been taken by me out of consideration for your sorry plight.

*Ch'engtu, February 7, 1907.*

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Inclosure 3 in No. 165.

*Memorandum by the Rev. J. H. Edgar respecting the proposed Colonization of Eastern Thibet.*

THE Chinese have the name of being capable colonists. Their success in Manchuria, Turkestan, and the Straits Settlements show that their power of adapting themselves to circumstances has rarely, if ever, been excelled. It is perhaps with the above facts in view that many see in the colonization scheme of his Excellency Chao a solution of the Eastern Thibetan troubles. But those who know the region in question will be much surprised if his Excellency Chao's optimism is confirmed by experience. The fact that Chinese go abroad, suit themselves to circumstances, and acquire wealth, or that they have successfully colonized fertile and peaceful regions contiguous to China is no guarantee that they will be induced to do the same in unfertile and inhospitable tracts far removed from the parent province. The success of any Chinese colonization movement will depend largely on the character of the colonists; the nature of the country to be colonized, the attitude of the people in the country, and the degree of control exercised by the home Government. In criticizing the scheme of his Excellency Chao, I shall have the above conditions in view.

1. The country in question lies between Ta Chien Lu and Batang. The distance between the two towns is about 1,000 *li*, or eighteen stages. A more unsuitable region for colonization would be hard to find. Going west from Ta Chien Lu the traveller soon finds himself above 13,000 feet, and, with the exception of a dip of 5,000 feet into the deep valley of the Yalung, the level only drops below the former height when near Batang. In this weary journey over dangerous passes and barren steppes there are only two Settlements of importance: Ho-K'eo, five days from Ta Chien Lu, at an altitude of 9,000 feet; and Litang, a thriving trade centre over 13,000 feet. In the regions around Ta Chien Lu wheat and barley may be found growing slightly above 12,000 feet, but beyond that altitude cereals of any kind rarely ripen. There may be limited areas of arable land further down the mountain ravines, but it is inconceivable that men will seek them and settle there permanently. This is a land only suited to the nomad and the outcast, and the official, soldier, and trader, spend their terms—generally three years—as a form of banishment. The winters above 13,000 feet are rigorous in the extreme, and the summers short and boisterous. The Thibetans, as a rule, lead a pastoral life, but gold washing, medicine digging, and the transporting of goods are the exceptional occupations.

2. The inhabitants of this region are wild and unruly, and brigandage has become a second nature. Chronic bickerings obtain everywhere, and the nomad scoffs at law and order, and he has not yet been taught that the Chinaman can enforce it. The country, according to the Chinese, has been pacified, but my own experience in the region would lead me to question the statement, and give as a proof the quixotic scheme now under discussion. Chinese troops have no doubt exterminated some hundreds of Thibetans in the more settled and accessible regions, but the real terror of the steppes,



the ruthless, restless nomad has probably not been touched. He has retired for the time being, but the day will come when we shall hear more of his cruelty and audacity, and then woe betide the luckless Chinese settlers who find themselves at his mercy. In the majority of cases the only safeguard against the unprincipled Tibetans would be strong and flourishing Settlements, but the nature of the country makes this impossible.

3. The authority of China is too remote and uncertain to benefit the colonists for many years. Batang, the Ultima Thule of the home-loving Chinaman, is eighteen stages beyond Ta Chien Lu, popularly known as the "edge of the earth." The passes on the way are among the most trying in the world. The district of Batang when reached is small and unimportant. It is so lonely that all officials, and the soldiers forming the garrisons, are changed every three years. Even their provisions have to be procured a month's journey away; their society must be the despised Mantze, and they can never have their wives with them. It may be noted here that no serious attempt at colonization has ever been made in this part of China. So far the Chinese in this region have been traders, and even then, in the majority of cases, they came from the northern provinces of Shansi, Shensi, and Kansuh. The Szechuan people, as a rule, do not even temporarily visit such outlandish regions.

4. The character of the colonists would also have a most important bearing on the situation. In the present case the exodus will be from a richer country to a poorer, and it will probably be the discontented and undesirable element from the lowlands, the flotsam and jetsam of the province, who will jump at this chance of improving their fortunes; a type, I am afraid, ill-fitted to withstand the temptations of such immoral districts as Litang and Batang.

Personally, I do not expect any lasting results from this effort. I have some knowledge of the border regions, and it is hard to understand why such a remote and impracticable region as Eastern Tibet is chosen as a field for colonization when districts eminently more suited abound at no great distance from Ch'engt'u. Here we find low altitudes, suitable country, friendly peoples, and excellent communications with China Proper. When it is remembered that this region, thirty days' journey from Ch'engt'u, with every condition unfavourable, is chosen in preference to regions seven or eight days' distant, we might be pardoned for looking upon the scheme with some suspicion. However, if the Chinese Government, for reasons best known to themselves, really desire the colonization of Batang both retrocession and absorption must be reckoned with.

(1.) No doubt many of the poorer and improvident class, if suitably subsidized by the Government, will make their way to Batang or other parts of Eastern Tibet. They will find the climate there most trying, the food unpalatable, and the conditions of life generally infinitely harder than in China. The language will be uncouth and unfamiliar; the people savage and truculent; and their own wives and families will hardly be able to accompany them. Before long the great yearning of their lives will be to get home; and home they will go in spite of the restrictions of man and nature! It would be interesting to know how many people the Chinese Government is prepared to assist. In such an enormous area a few hundreds of emigrants would not materially affect the situation. If really large Settlements could be formed the danger from hostile Tibetans would not enter into the scheme, but if solitary individuals are scattered here and there throughout this inhospitable and badly-governed region experience teaches that the chronic dread which enshrouds these outcasts is not altogether unwarranted. And I do not think I am unduly pessimistic in saying that there is no prospect of the country anywhere sustaining a population sufficient to save the colonists from extermination if the Tibetans so desired. Again and again one meets with regions depopulated by the threatening attitude of the nomads and the proximity of robber bands.

(2.) Any one acquainted with the histories of Chinese border towns will understand how easily the Chinese are absorbed by the native tribes. In all the border districts, unless the colonists are numerous and exceptionally conservative, they soon become indistinguishable from the natives. In Batang and Litang all the tendencies will be in this direction. The settlers must perforce marry native women, and in a short time there will be a large half-caste population. The society and education will be, on the whole, more Tibetan than Chinese; and the children will prefer their mother's tongue. As time goes on these children of Tibetan mothers will again marry native women, and in this way the second generation will be hardly distinguishable from the pure Tibetan stock. In all these regions contiguous to China, the Chinese amalgamate readily with the natives without interfering with their languages, customs, or government, and when this takes place, these mixed tribes are usually friendly to China. To this extent the



present scheme of colonization may succeed, but we can hardly expect to see the results in this generation.

(Signed) J. H. EDGAR.

[16683]

No. 166.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 22.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 16th instant, relative to relations between British and Chinese officials in Thibet.

*India Office, May 22, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 166.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, May 16, 1907.*

PLEASE repeat to Peking your telegram of the 8th instant as to Thibet.

Instructions in connection therewith were sent to Sir J. Jordan on the 13th instant to again make representations to the Chinese Government as to necessity for prompt and unmistakable effect being given by Mr. Gow to orders reported in Sir J. Jordan's telegram of the 26th March last, which were evidently being ignored by Mr. Gow.

He was at the same time informed that, if freedom of communications is restored, His Majesty's Government do not propose to insist upon the immediate appointment of Thibetan Trade Agents, which, as appears from final paragraph of Jordan's telegram of the 8th April, will meet Chinese wishes.

[16674]

No. 167.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 22.)*

(No. 88.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Peking, May 22, 1907.*

FOLLOWING repeated to India:—

With reference to your telegram No. 52 of the 13th instant, a Memorandum in the terms indicated was presented by me yesterday to the Wai-wu Pu. Free communication, to which they admitted we were entitled by the provisions of the Convention, should, they said, be facilitated by Mr. Gow's departure. They undertook to obtain further explanations from Chang by telegraph.

[16685]

No. 168.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 22.)*

(No. 89.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Peking, May 22, 1907.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 46 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the Chinese Government, in reply to your proposal submitted to them on the 14th instant respecting the negotiation of Trade Regulations, put forward a counter-proposal, which is to the effect that a Thibetan and an Indian Government official should be appointed by Thibet and India respectively, and the proceedings of their negotiations be submitted to the Viceroy of India and Chang Tach'en for their approval.

When I drew attention to the vagueness of this proposal, in which even the place for negotiation was not specified, I was told that it would not be convenient for Chang to leave Thibet, and the Ministers seemed afraid lest Chang might be placed in a false

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position by the rank of the Government of India's Representative. Gyantse was implied in their scheme as the place for negotiation, with telegraphic reference to superior authorities.

I replied that the responsibility for the negotiations appeared, from the above proposal, to be vested in China, and not in Thibet.

I have repeated this telegram to his Excellency the Viceroy of India.

[16776]

No. 169.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 23.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 22nd May, relative to relations between British and Chinese officials in Thibet.

*India Office, May 23, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 169.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*May 22, 1907.*

THIBET. We repeat telegrams that have been exchanged recently with Trade Agent at Gyantse:—

1. From Captain O'Connor, dated the 9th May.—This morning Mr. Gow, who returned from Lhasa yesterday evening, stopped by force supplies coming in for agency use. Thibetan Depon has also been prevented by him from coming to call upon me. In view of grave difficulties presented by situation, I may at any moment be compelled to take some such action as was indicated in my preceding messages.

2. To Captain O'Connor, dated the 13th May.—Your telegram of the 9th May. It is understood that you are not at present in actual need of food. You will of course take no action without reporting what you propose to do. I still await your reply to my telegram of the 12th May.

3. From Captain O'Connor, dated the 14th May.—Your telegram of the 12th May. My telegram of the 9th May will have informed you that not only has no improvement taken place as regards direct communications between Thibetan authorities and myself, but there has been active interference on the part of Mr. Gow to hinder such communications. Any communications I make to Jongpens are ignored by them, and Lhasa Delegates have neither called on me nor apprised me in any way of their arrival. It is difficult, in these circumstances, to regard as a candid statement of the facts of the case Chang Tajen's declaration that instructions of Wai-wu Pu are being carried out. I venture to draw your attention to the allegations of the Chinese Government that the British Representative at Gyantse had extorted supplies by forced sale and arbitrary prices. Such allegations are uncalled for and insulting, and on behalf of both Mr. Bailey and myself I warmly repudiate them.

4. From Captain O'Connor, dated the 15th May.—Your telegram of the 13th May. The supplies which Mr. Gow stopped consisted of bhusa, of which we have sufficient quantity. Since that incident supplies have been coming in as usual. I will report immediately if they are again stopped. Likelihood of a collision between Chinese or Thibetans and our people is what I fear. Intervention to quell consequent disturbance might then become necessary. Some such occurrence is rendered every day more probable owing to increasing disregard for the British in Thibet due to Chinese arrogance and to our inaction.



[17024]

No. 170.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 25.)*

Sir,

*India Office, May 25, 1907.*

WITH reference to the telegram from the Government of India of the 22nd instant, transmitting telegrams from the trade agent at Gyantse as to the obstructive attitude of the Chinese officials at that place, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to suggest, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that His Majesty's Minister at Peking should be instructed to call the attention of the Chinese Government to the further facts now reported, in connection with the communication to the Wai-wu Pu referred to in his telegram of the 22nd instant, No. 88.

I am to add that the Government of India have been requested to repeat their telegram of the 22nd instant to Peking.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[17047]

No. 171.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 27.)*

(No. 271.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, May 21, 1907.*

ON receipt of your telegram No. 65, I wrote a private note to M. Isvolsky as to the slight amendment to be made in the French version of the Annex to the Thibet Convention regarding the occupation of the Chumbi Valley, and I have the honour to inclose copy of a letter which I have received from his Excellency agreeing to the insertion of the words "de l'indemnité" in the sentence alluding to the payment of the 25 lakhs.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 171.

*M. Isvolsky to Sir A. Nicolson.*

Mon cher Ambassadeur,

*Le 20 Mai, 1907.*

EN réponse à votre lettre en date du 4 (17) Mai, année courante, j'ai l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence qu'il n'y aura aucune objection de la part du Gouvernement Impérial à compléter le texte de l'Annexe à la Convention concernant le Thibet par l'insertion des mots "de l'indemnité" avant l'énonciation de la somme "25,00,000 roupies."

Par conséquent, la phrase visée sera rédigée ainsi: "après le payement de trois annuités de l'indemnité de 25,00,000 roupies."

Votre, &amp;c.

(Signé) ISVOLSKY.

[17024]

No. 172.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 57.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, May 27, 1907.*

WITH reference to Viceroy of India's telegram of the 22nd May, respecting the interference of the Chinese to prevent direct communication between British and Thibetan agents.

You should call the attention of the Chinese Government to the further facts which the trade agent at Gyantse has reported.



[10356]

No. 173.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

(Secret.)

*Foreign Office, May 27, 1907.*

Sir,

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 5th ultimo, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to invite attention to the suggestion made by His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg, in his despatch No. 164 of the 28th March last, that he should propose to the Russian Government that the Chinese Government should be moved, in connection with the proposed prohibition of scientific missions into Thibet, to state the limits of that country according to their views, and that the British and Russian Governments should then sign a Declaration recording their adherence to the limits laid down by the Chinese Government.

As the negotiations on this point would probably occupy some time, the Declaration would be signed subsequent to, and separate from, the general Anglo-Russian Agreement respecting Thibet and the exchange of notes between the two Governments in regard to scientific missions.

Sir E. Grey proposes to authorize Sir A. Nicolson to take the action proposed, but, before doing so, he will be glad to learn whether the Secretary of State for India has any observations to make on the subject.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[17541]

No. 174.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 30.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of Gyantse Diary for the two weeks ending the 13th April, 1907.

A copy has been sent to the Director of Military Operations.

*India Office, May 29, 1907.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 174.

*Diary of Captain O'Connor for the week ending April 6, 1907.*

March 31, 1907.—Nothing to report.

April 1.—I sent a letter to the Tashi Lama asking him whether he had received some photographic chemicals I had sent him, and if they were what he wanted.

April 2.—I went out as far as Ne-nying to inspect the road.

April 3.—Ma-chi-fu, the Chinese Popon of Shigatse and Chumbi, called on me in the afternoon. We had a friendly conversation, and I took him for a little drive in my motor-car (which is again in tolerable working order), but we did not touch upon any political questions. This officer now holds the post of Popon both at Shigatse and at Chumbi, thus combining the two offices. He has just arrived from Shigatse, where he met Dr. Sven Hedin, and is on his way to Chumbi.

April 4.—Mr. Chang, I hear, has issued orders to the Jongpens here to undertake a cadastral survey of this district with a view, I suppose, to inaugurating a regular settlement. This command has puzzled the poor men very much. They have not, of course, the remotest idea how to set about such a business, and they started out this morning, accompanied by two Thibetan artists, resolved at least to make some kind of picture. The result should be worth seeing. It is not the least absurd side of the political situation in Thibet that the senior Chinese officers are inspired by a real desire to undertake some useful works as an off-set to their centuries of neglect and corruption; but, unfortunately, with the best will in the world, they are themselves so ignorant, and so little removed above the Thibetans in their civilization and acquirements, that it is a case of the blind leading the blind, and both are in danger from the proverbial ditch. There can, I think, be no doubt that a part at least of the hostility and bitterness displayed



towards us by the Chinese officials in this country is due to jealousy. They recognise that we are their superiors in science and in honesty, and they naturally resent our presence amongst a servile people accustomed hitherto to regard the Chinese as the acme of wisdom and fashion.

*April 5.*—Snow fell during the night and well on into this morning to a depth of some 3 inches.

For some little time past I have noticed that there seemed to be some difficulty in procuring such local supplies—as cloth, servants' clothing, saddlery, and so on—as I required, but my servants seemed reluctant to tell me the real reason. To-day, as a test case, I sent for a Thibetan merchant, with whom I have had frequent dealings, telling him to bring me some small articles I wanted. He sent back a message to say that he was sorry he could not come, but feared that if he did so he might get into trouble. I then learnt, from my Thibetan clerk and others, that the local merchants and people, while still entertaining very friendly feelings towards us, perfectly appreciate the anomalous state of affairs here and the absurd position of the British Agent at Gyantse, debarred as he is by the orders of the Chinese from any intercourse with the Thibetan officials. They naturally incline towards the stronger party, and remembering the savage punishments dealt out in the past by their Government to people known to be friendly to us, they are careful to trim their sails in time. The impression has been carefully fostered by the Chinese that we are to be turned out, bag and baggage, at the end of this year; and this is the belief now generally held in Thibet. It is significant that the latest topical song as sung by the coolies is to the effect that "You had better not go to Changlo" (our post) "if you don't want your throat cut." In fact, the pall of mediævalism, corruption, and bad government, which we had for a moment pushed aside, is again settling down, slowly and steadily, upon these wretched people. It is not a pleasant sight to witness, more especially when we are in a position legitimately to keep open at least one avenue leading to the modern world. At any rate, I am now effectually boycotted, for even if I could persuade or compel people to deal with me, I do not wish to do so if it is likely to get them into trouble afterwards. Our "trade mart," in fact, is not a particularly flourishing concern.

*April 6.*—The Sikkim Rajah's relations called upon me to-day and brought me some odds and ends of information regarding personalities in Lhasa; none of any very special interest except as indicating Mr. Chang's general attitude, regarding which I was already fairly well informed.

(Signed) W. F. O'CONNOR, *Captain,*  
*British Trade Agent at Gyantse.*

*Inclosure 2 in No. 174.*

*Diary of Captain O'Connor for the week ending April 13, 1907.*

*April 7, 1907.*—Nothing to report.

*April 8.*—I have received a letter from a Thibetan correspondent living near Nang-Kar-Tse Jong giving me some information regarding Lhasa politics.

*April 9.*—Various contractors came to see me to-day asking for work, such as supplying timber, bricks, labour, &c., for any public works which may be projected in Thibet.

*April 10.*—Nothing to report.

*April 11.*—Nothing to report.

*April 12.*—An Agent returned from Lhasa to-day with various items of information.

*April 13.*—I received from Lhasa a letter written by the Tashi Lama's Agent there. These two informants, as well as the letter received on the 8th instant, are all more or less in agreement, and the gist of their news is as follows:—

Mr. Chang is very busy reorganizing the Thibetan Administration. He has taken back into favour a number of officers who have been at various times dismissed from office by the Dalai Lama, and later, for various alleged offences—for instance, the late Shapes Sha-tra, She-kang, and Te-kang, and others whose names are well known to me, but whom it would be tedious to enumerate here—and he has formed from these, and from some other senior superannuated monks and laymen, a sort of Senate or



Consultative Body, before which he lays important matters for consideration and advice. Yutok, late Shape, is apparently admitted to this body. In addition to this, he has constituted eight (one correspondent says nine) Boards or offices as follows:—

1. Mines;
2. Communications;
3. Survey and Agriculture;
4. Commercial (dealing chiefly with the trade in tea and salt);
5. War;
6. Revenue;
7. Arts and Crafts;
8. Coal (I do not quite know what this latter is; but apparently there is believed to be coal somewhere, and I suppose this Board has to look for it);

each under its own Secretary and with its appropriate staff. These Boards meet daily and transact business, reporting direct to Chang.

The Heads of the War or Military Board are: The Te-ling Depon and Miru Gyal-wa Depon, with two Under-Secretaries and a staff of twenty others.

This new Constitution of Mr. Chang's (if it were possible to take the matter seriously) shows no little skill in its conception. It may be compared with the revised Napoleonic Constitution of 1804. A submissive, chiefly nominated Senate, working directly under the control of the chief Executive authority, and counteracting the influence and independence of the "Tribunate" (the Thibetan National Assembly), and all minor executive offices and Heads of Departments nominated by the central authority—Mr. Chang! It will be interesting to see how the system will work. Personally I entertain no doubt that a reform in the Thibetan Constitution and methods of government is quite feasible, but I doubt whether the present Chinese officials in Thibet are the men to carry such a reform into execution. But Mr. Chang seems to me to have ignored two factors of vital importance in considering any constitutional changes in Thibet: first, the overwhelming influence of the Buddhist Church in Thibet; and, secondly, the impossibility of supporting his reforms and orders by the necessary force—civil or military—which would be required to inaugurate and maintain a new system of government.

As to this latter question, he has, it is true, instructed the Thibetan Government to organize a force of 40,000 men, and steps are actually being taken to select and drill a certain number. One man out of every five, I hear, is to be conscripted, and already some 500 soldiers are being drilled at Lhasa, and clothed in uniforms of a European (or perhaps Nepali) fashion. But all well-informed Thibetans are of opinion that no progress can ever be made in such a military programme—at any rate under Chinese auspices. The Thibetans themselves, to begin with, are utterly averse to war and warlike exercises, and they had an object-lesson, not easily forgotten, during the recent Mission to Lhasa, of the hopelessness of attempting to fight European troops; and, secondly, the Thibetan Government neither could nor would undertake the expense of maintaining a large body of regular troops. The total income of the State (so I hear from various sources) is only some 7 to 8 lakhs of rupees annually, of which the bulk is in kind, and any actual cash is urgently required for the pay of the officials and other administrative needs of the country.

Other scraps of information are—

The Monk Shape is not dead, as was reported to me some time ago, but has not been in good health for some time.

Yu, the late Amban, is soon to be sent back to China via Ta-t sien-lu.

Three thousand Chinese soldiers are said to have arrived at a place called Dzekang, somewhere in Central Thibet. It is probably only some move of the Szechuan Viceroy to maintain his influence in those parts.

Persistent rumours of the Dalai Lama's return are afloat. Preparations are being made for his journey, and one of his officials (Pa-lha) has arrived at Nag-chu-ka with a quantity of his baggage from Mongolia. A high Chinese official has also reached Nag-chu-ka from the north.

Tsamba (barley-flour, the staple food of the Thibetans) is, and has been for some months, very scarce at Lhasa.

The great Lhasa oracle, who went off into Mongolia with the Dalai Lama, has been summoned to Lhasa by Chang, where, it is expected, he will be severely punished as one of the authors of Thibet's recent troubles.



One of my agents informs me that it is increasingly difficult for him to travel and acquire information without attracting suspicion, as stringent precautions are now being taken to ascertain the identity and objects of all travellers.

In conclusion, I may add that whilst the Chinese are taking advantage of every opportunity to strengthen their position and prestige in Thibet, we are losing ground daily. It is now six weeks since I have held communication of any kind with the Thibetan officials, and there seems to be no sign of the embargo being removed, in spite of the instructions issued to Mr. Chang by the Wai-wu Pu.

(Signed)

W. F. O'CONNOR, *Captain,*  
*British Trade Agent at Gyantse.*

[17549]

No. 175.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 30.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of Thibet Frontier Confidential Report No. 71.

*India Office, May 29, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 175.

*Lieutenant Bailey to the Political Officer in Sikkim.*

(Confidential.)

*Camp Chumpithang, April 9, 1907.*

*Chinese Officials.*—Mr. Cheung, Mr. Henderson's successor, is now at Darjeeling, and will come to Chumbi when the passes are open.

Yu Tai, the Chinese Amban who was at Lhasa when the Treaty was signed, has been sentenced by the Emperor to be banished for life to Mongolia.

There is news of further dissensions among the members of Mr. Chang's staff at Lhasa. The Lhasa Tungling, Liu, was sentenced to death by Chang for embezzlement. He thereupon bribed Ho, Mr. Chang's Private Secretary; but after the bribe had been in part received orders came from the Throne sentencing Liu to banishment. On this Liu demanded the return of his bribe from Ho, but the latter refused to give it up. Liu then publicly proclaimed what had occurred, and Ho, who is in Mr. Chang's confidence, and of whom Mr. Chang will believe no wrong, attempted to prove that some one else had taken the bribe.

Liang, the new Amban, is keeping clear of all these affairs, but threatens to report Chang to the Emperor if he permits an innocent man to suffer for Ho's misdoings. In all this Mr. Chang appears to be a well-meaning but weak man in the hands of Ho, who is a clever rascal.

All the members of Mr. Chang's staff are desirous of returning to China.

Mr. Gow's resignation has been accepted, and it is probable that Mr. Cheung, the Chinese Custom officer who is to replace Mr. Henderson, will be posted at Gyantse instead of at Chumbi, and will perform Mr. Gow's duties in addition to his own. Mr. Gow himself will rejoin Mr. Chang's staff as interpreter, if he stays in India to settle the Trade Regulations.

*Local.*—A Mongolian Prince is expected to pass through the Chumbi valley shortly on his way to Peking. He will probably stop with Ma Chi Fu, the Popon, who is expected in a couple of days.

The road to Phari is open, but no trade is passing over the Jelap-la yet. A few coolies have managed to cross the Nathu-la, but the road is still impassable for



animals, and is likely to remain so for some time, as there are some 10 feet of snow still on the pass. The weather in the valley itself is fine and warm, and the crops are coming up.

A copy of the foregoing is forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, for information.

(Signed) F. M. BAILEY, *Lieutenant,*  
*Assistant Political Officer, Chumbi.*

*Chumpithang, April 9, 1907.*

[17731]

No. 176.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 31.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 29th instant, relative to the Thibet trade regulations.

*India Office, May 31, 1907.*

*Inclosure in No. 176.*

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, May 29, 1907.*

PLEASE see telegram of the 22nd instant from His Majesty's Minister at Peking regarding Thibet Trade Regulations, which was repeated to you.

Following is text of Foreign Office telegram of the 8th instant, to which Sir J. Jordan's of the 22nd instant is reply:—

"Please refer to your telegram dated the 8th ultimo. You should inform Chinese Government that Government of India will be authorized to appoint a Representative to negotiate Trade Regulations with a fully authorized Delegate of the Thibetan Government, to be associated with Chang Ta-jên for the purpose; and that His Majesty's Government will not insist on right secured to them by Article II of Lhasa Convention to negotiate exclusively with Delegates of Thibetan Government.

"Appointment of Thibetan Delegate, with full powers to negotiate and sign on behalf of Thibetan Government, must be made by latter before commencement of negotiations, in such a manner that responsibility for settlement arrived at cannot be disclaimed by Thibetan Government.

"Conduct of negotiations at Simla, the Government of India's headquarters, instead of Calcutta, will not, we presume, be open to any objection on part of Chinese Government."

[10356]

No. 177.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 68.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, June 1, 1907.*

BOUNDARIES of Thibet: Your despatch No. 164 of the 28th March.

You may make proposal suggested in third paragraph of your despatch.

I quite agree that proposed communication to China should in no way interfere with conclusion of Convention with Russia.



[17905]

No. 178.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 3.)*

(No. 184.)

Sir,

*Peking, April 16, 1907.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your information, copy of the Memorandum requesting the Chinese Government to carry out their engagements under Articles V and I of the Lhasa and Adhesion Conventions respectively, which was handed to the Wai-wu Pu on the 2nd April, in accordance with the instructions contained in your telegram No. 36 of the 29th March; and also a translation of the reply of the Chinese Government, the substance of which was communicated to you in my telegram No. 57 of the 8th April.

I should mention that on the 27th March, before the receipt of your telegram No. 36, the Wai-wu Pu had referred verbally to the subject of Regulations for the trade marts, and had intimated their intention of furnishing me with a Memorandum for communication to you. His Excellency Tong Shoa-yi, the Minister in charge of Thibetan affairs, was not present at my interview of the 2nd April, but next day he sent me a message to the effect that the promised proposals, the preparation of which had been delayed by pressure of other business, would be sent to me in the same document with the reply to my Memorandum of the 2nd April.

I have pressed repeatedly, both upon the Wai-wu Pu and upon his Excellency Tong Shoa-yi privately, the necessity of taking immediate steps to carry out their engagements under the foregoing Conventions, the most important of which appeared to be the appointment by the Thibetan Government of Thibetan Agents at Yatung, Gyantse, and Gartok.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 178.

*Memorandum communicated by Sir J. Jordan to Wai-wu Pu.*

UNDER Article V of the Convention between Great Britain and Thibet, which was concluded at Lhasa on the 7th September, 1904, the Thibetan Government undertook to establish Thibetan Agents at Yatung, Gyantse, and Gartok, and it is essential that the Thibetan Government should fulfil this undertaking with the least possible delay.

In regard to this matter, I am instructed by His Majesty's Government to draw attention to the provisions of Article I of the Anglo-Chinese Convention of the 27th April, 1906, under which the Chinese Government engaged to take at all times, such steps as might be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the Lhasa Convention; and to request that immediate steps may be taken to secure that the Chinese authority in Thibet shall faithfully carry out the terms of this engagement.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

*Peking, April 2, 1907.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 178.

*Memorandum communicated to Sir J. Jordan by the Wai-wu Pu.*

(Translation.)

WHEREAS Yatung, Gyantse, and Gartok were opened as trading marts under the Thibet Convention; it is of urgent importance that the Regulations should be determined on under which they are to be administered.

In response to this Board's Memorial, an Imperial Command has been issued for Chang Tach'en (Yin T'ang), the Special Commissioner to Thibet, to attend to the arrangements connected with the opening of these marts.

In settling these trade Regulations, if the Government of India appoints a special Representative of high rank and with full powers, then Chang Tach'en could, of course, proceed to Calcutta and negotiate with him: or if they are to be settled

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through the Trade Agent at Gyantse, Chang Tach'en could select a Representative to negotiate with that officer.

We have the honour to request a reply on this point.

As regards the appointment of Thibetan Agents at each of the marts, Yatung, Gyantse, and Gartok, as soon as the trade mart Regulations are settled these appointments shall be made, in accordance with the Convention.

We beg your Excellency to communicate this to His Majesty's Government.

April 8, 1907.

[18134]

No. 179.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 3.)*

Sir,

*India Office, June 1, 1907.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 27th ultimo, and to say that Mr. Secretary Morley concurs in the proposal of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that proceedings connected with the Anglo-Russian Agreement regarding Thibet, and the exchange of notes between the two Governments as to scientific missions, should not be postponed till the question of the limits of Thibet has been settled at Peking with the Chinese Government; but that, when that question has been settled, the two Governments should sign a declaration recording their adherence to the limits agreed on.

I am, &c.

(Signed) COLIN G. CAMPBELL.

[18493]

No. 180.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 6.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of Gyantse diary for the week ending the 20th April, 1907.

*India Office, June 4, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 180.

*Diary of Captain W. F. O'Connor, C.I.E., British Trade Agent at Gyantse,  
for the week ending April 20, 1907.*

April 14, 1907.—I rode out some miles in a westerly direction in order to observe the progress of cultivation this year. I found the people busy ploughing their fields and the irrigation channels all flowing. This will be an early year, I think, owing to the fall of snow early this month having moistened the ground.

April 15.—Nothing to report.

April 16.—Nothing to report.

April 17.—Mr. Gow, having heard that I was purchasing cuttings of willow trees to plant round about our house here, has issued orders that no person is to sell any trees at all in future.

April 18.—Some Kunawari traders who arrived here last night came to me this morning to complain that after arrival at Gyantse they had been robbed of a donkey-load of their kit. Apparently the donkey driver arrived about nightfall at Gyantse and in the darkness succeeded in making off with one of the laden donkeys. The traders appealed to me as British Trade Agent to secure them redress.

This complaint placed me in a very awkward position. I knew that if I wrote to the Jongpens I should receive no reply, or else a letter telling me to refer to the Chinese officials; whereas if I took no notice of these poor people's request I should cut a very sorry figure in their eyes, and should discourage any other traders from coming here in the future. I decided, therefore, in the first instance to write to the



Jongpens, setting forth the case and requesting redress, and if, as I expected, they took no notice, to make such private inquiries through my own servants as might lead to the arrest of the thief. I therefore sent a letter to the Jongpens representing the facts of the case and requesting them to take such measures as were possible for the detection of the thief and the recovery of the lost property.

*April 19.*—I heard to-day that Mr. Gow started for Lhasa early this morning,

The son of the Nepalese Lieutenant called on me in the afternoon to inform me that some letters which had been intrusted to the Chinese post by the Nepalese Major at Lhasa for dispatch to Nepal via Gyantse had never come to hand, and had apparently been intercepted by the Chinese officials, and similarly that letters addressed by the Nepalese Lieutenant to Lhasa had disappeared in the Chinese post. The Nepalese officials naturally appear to regard this as a very serious matter. Their letters often are, as we know, of a very confidential and even compromising nature, and their interception and perusal by the Chinese would be no light matter. The Nepalese Lieutenant is sending two members of his staff to Lhasa to inquire into the case, and to consult with the Agent there.

As I expected, I have received no reply from the Jongpens regarding the missing property of the Kunawari traders, and I am trying to ascertain privately who is responsible for the loss.

*April 20.*—Nothing to report.

(Signed) W. F. O'CONNOR, *Captain.*

[18548]

No. 181.

*India Office to Foreign Office.*—(Received June 6.)

Sir,

*India Office, June 6, 1907.*

IN reply to your letter of the 24th ultimo, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to inclose, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy of the 28th ultimo, expressing the views of the Government of India on the counter-proposal of the Chinese Government as to the conduct of the negotiations for the revision of the Thibetan trade Regulations, reported in the telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Peking of the 22nd ultimo.

Mr. Morley agrees generally with the reasons given by the Government of India for objecting to the Chinese counter-proposal, which appears to him necessarily to involve great delay, even if the Thibetan official does not adopt an obstructive attitude. Nor does Gyantse, in view of the strained situation there, appear a suitable place for the negotiations.

As regards the status of the British officer to represent the Government of India, it will be remembered that the negotiations at Calcutta regarding the Adhesion Convention were conducted by Mr. Tang and Mr. Fraser, the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

Mr. Morley would suggest that Sir J. Jordan should be instructed to urge the Chinese Government to give effect to the first alternative proposed by them, as reported in Sir J. Jordan's telegram of the 8th April, and to arrange for the negotiations to be conducted at Simla by Chang Tajen and a Delegate of the Thibetan Government duly authorized to sign on their behalf.

Sir J. Jordan might perhaps be further instructed to call the attention of the Chinese Government to the importance which His Majesty's Government attach to settling the trade Regulations before the 1st January next, when the question of evacuating the Chumbi Valley will arise.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 181.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*May 28, 1907.*

SEE telegram of 22nd instant from Sir J. Jordan.

It is desirable in our opinion that conduct of negotiations for settlement of Thibet trade Regulations should now be at Government of India's head-quarters. Sir J. Jordan's telegram of the 8th ultimo shows that Chinese Government originated



this proposal, and we do not understand reason for their present change of front. We are prepared to appoint official of rank at least equal to Mr. Chang's if negotiations take place at Simla.

Chinese Government's suggestion that negotiations should be conducted by Indian and Thibetan officials, and their proceedings submitted to Viceroy and Chang seems to imply recognition of equality of status between Chang and his Excellency. Arrangements, moreover, would be infinitely tedious, as there is no telegraph line to Lhasa, and present deadlock in Thibet might be continued. Reference to local officers at Gyantse for report on points in doubt could be made from Simla.

[18915]

No. 182.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 10.)*

(No. 296.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, June 2, 1907.*

I COMMUNICATED to-day to M. Isvolsky an *aide-mémoire*, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, in regard to the question of defining the boundaries of Thibet. His Excellency read it through and said that he would give me a reply later. I remarked that this matter need not in any way delay the conclusion of the Convention regarding Thibet, as we could describe that country in the Convention under its simple designation without necessarily defining its precise limits. M. Isvolsky seemed to concur with this view.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 182.

*Aide-mémoire.*

IN regard to the question of defining the boundaries of Thibet, His Majesty's Embassy has the honour to propose to the Imperial Russian Government that the two Governments should request the Chinese Government, in giving their consent to do what lay in their power to prohibit scientific missions in Thibet for a period of three years, to state what according to their views are the limits of that country. The Russian and British Governments would then sign a declaration recording their adherence to the limits laid down by the Chinese Government. His Majesty's Embassy understands that the Russian Government agree with the British Government that the conclusion of the Convention in regard to Thibet should not be delayed on account of the proposed communication to the Chinese Government.

*St. Petersburg, May 20 (June 2), 1907.*

[18548]

No. 183.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 66.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, June 11, 1907.*

THIBET Trade Regulations: Your telegram No. 89 of the 22nd ultimo.

It would appear that, even if Thibetan official does not prove obstructive, considerable delay must result from adoption of counter proposal. In view of the strained relations existing at Gyantse, and the fact that it is not in telegraphic communication with Lhasa, it is not a suitable place for negotiations.

You should press Chinese Government to carry out first alternative proposed by them, which you reported in your telegram No. 57 of the 8th April, and to arrange that Chang and a Delegate of the Thibetan Government, duly empowered to sign on their behalf, should conduct negotiations at Simla. We should appoint an official of a rank at least equal to that of Chang.

You should further impress upon Chinese Government the importance which His Majesty's Government attach to the settlement of the Trade Regulations before the question of the evacuation of the Chumbi Valley comes up on the 1st January, 1908.

(Repeated to India.)



[19362]

No. 184.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 12.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 9th ultimo, relative to Thibet affairs.

*India Office, June 11, 1907.*

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Inclosure 1 in No. 184.

*Mr. J. White to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Gangtok, April 10, 1907.*

I HAVE the honour to submit that the situation in Thibet is becoming rapidly more serious, and in my opinion the time has come for His Majesty's Government to interfere and, with the aid of strong measures, to place matters on a more satisfactory footing, not alone with regard to the British Trade Agent at Gyantse, but to insure compliance with the Treaty terms which at present are being entirely evaded by the Thibetans at the instigation and with the connivance of the Chinese authorities.

2. The British Agent at Gyantse, in this telegram, dated the 5th April, makes the following suggestions:—

(a.) "Communication from the Indian Government to Lhasa reviewing general situation, and insisting on strict compliance with terms Lhasa Convention."

On this point I am entirely in agreement with the British Trade Agent's suggestion, and consider it should be carried out with the least possible delay. It clearly appears, from the correspondence, that the Ti Rimpoche believes that when the Adhesion Agreement was signed in Peking a new Treaty was concluded between China and ourselves which nullified the Lhasa Convention, and has relieved the Thibetans of any obligations to us.

I have no doubt that Mr. Chang has done his best to encourage this belief, if he has not actually asserted that it is the case.

Nothing less than a clear and full recapitulation of the terms of the Lhasa Treaty and an explanation of the Adhesion Agreement will dispel the illusion. This is all the more necessary as the true version is unlikely to find its way to Lhasa through Chinese channels, and the fact that our Government has addressed the Lhasa authorities will obviate the possibility of the Thibetans later on protesting that they know nothing of the matter.

At the same time it would be very bad policy on our part to attempt to coerce the Thibetans unless Government is prepared to take up a strong position with China, and to firmly insist on the provisions of the Treaty being carried out. An abortive attempt would place us in an infinitely worse position than we are at present.

It has been clearly proved that the Thibetans are helpless in the matter, and are forced to obey China's orders, therefore we must make China clearly understand that we intend to insist on our rights under the Lhasa Convention, and having once achieved this there will, I anticipate from my intimate knowledge of the Thibetans, be no further difficulty.

(b.) "Request the Lhasa Government to send Representatives to discuss with us new Trade Regulations."

(c.) "Speedy negotiations of Trade Regulations on some such lines as I have already suggested."

The sooner the Lhasa Government can be induced to send Representatives to discuss the Trade Regulations the better, as such discussion is absolutely necessary, and until this has taken place things will continue to be on an unsatisfactory footing.

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I have, however, always been very strongly of the opinion that Gyantse is not the right place in which to discuss the Regulations, and the present strained relations between the British Trade Agent there and the Chinese and Thibetans make it almost impossible that any satisfactory conclusion could be arrived at. The whole question of Trade Regulations should be discussed either at Gangtok, the head-quarters of the Agency, or in Simla on the return of Mr. Chang. Any protracted stay by Mr. Chang in Gyantse at present will be most undesirable from all points, and more satisfactory results are likely to be attained if the discussion takes place elsewhere.

I have received no copy of the British Trade Agent's letter containing his suggestions with regard to the Trade Regulations, and should be much obliged by your forwarding me one at your earliest convenience, in order that I may criticize them.

(d.) "Permission to Trade Agent to visit Shigatse as soon as possible."

A short time ago I should have been in favour of allowing the British Trade Agent to visit Shigatse, but in view of the present situation I consider it will be more politic to defer for the present any such visit. The point can easily be raised again when more important questions have been finally determined.

(e.) "Removal of trade mart from Gyantse to Shigatse for commercial reasons already indicated in my letter dated the 3rd February."

Here I am again in favour of the eventual removal of the Trade Agency to Shigatse, but consider the present movement inopportune for making such a proposal, and consequently it should be postponed to a more favourable opportunity.

I hope Government will see their way to giving early and serious consideration to my suggestions, as the situation in Thibet is distinctly critical, and is rapidly tending towards a state of affairs which will make our position there untenable.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 184.

*Major Manners Smith to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Nepal, April 23, 1907.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 16th April, and to submit the following report.

2. No further information having reached me regarding Mr. Chang's actions in Thibet since the submission of the papers referred to, I took the opportunity of calling on the Prime Minister, on the afternoon of the 20th instant, to make further inquiries.

3. I informed Sir Chandra Shumshere frankly that the Government of India were interested in all that Mr. Chang was doing in Thibet, and had not failed to notice his evident desire to identify the interests of Nepal and Bhutan with that country, as also his wish to extend his influence in Nepal by paying a visit to the country.

4. Sir Chandra replied that since the Nepalese Representative's letter regarding Mr. Chang's overtures for a loan no news of special interest had been received from Lhasa, except some information regarding Mr. Sven Hedin, which he would send me; nor had there been any further mention of Mr. Chang's proposed visit to Nepal.

5. As regards the loan, the Prime Minister informed me that he had sent the Representative definite instructions to make it clear that this was a matter in which the Nepal Government would not move.

6. In this connection I referred to a rumour reported to Government by Colonel Wylie in 1892, that Sir Bir Shumshere had at various times remitted as much as 16 lakhs of rupees to Thibet, and asked Sir Chandra if there was any truth in it. For a moment the Minister evaded a reply, and said if it had been a fact he must have heard of it. When, however, I said I knew nothing more than that there had been such a rumour, and supposed that it might be susceptible of some easy explanation even if true, the Minister said: "Now I remember; it was not in Sir Bir's time, but in Sir Ranodip's." A large amount of Thibetan money was in Nepal, he supposed some 12 lakhs, paid in as indemnity. It was found that this money was not current, and could not be utilized, and it was therefore sent back to Thibet for trade purposes.

7. As regards Mr. Chang's visit to Nepal, Sir Chandra admitted that it might be considered in the light of an innovation, as the only occasions on which it is usual



for Chinese Envoys to come to Khatmandu are when honours have to be conferred on a new Prime Minister. He asked me what I thought the Government of India would wish him to do if a direct request were made. I replied that I had no instructions on this point, but it was easy to understand that Government would not view any attempts to extend the influence of China in Nepal or Bhutan with indifference, and persistence in such a policy would presumably entail diplomatic action to prevent its success.

Sir Chandra said that in such a matter Nepal would have to be guided by the wishes of the Government of India, as the Nepal Durbar would never dare to incur the serious displeasure of the British Government.

8. I asked him whether he would anticipate any trouble to the present Mission to Peking if he were to refuse Mr. Chang's admission to Nepal. Sir Chandra thought that this Mission would not suffer in any way, but that if China were insistent about Mr. Chang coming here, a refusal to allow him to do so might lead eventually to cessation of present relations between the two countries and to retaliation through the Thibetan Government, by the dismissal of the Nepalese Representative at Lhasa and by boycott of their trade. He thinks that Thibet is so much under the influence of China now, that her action in future is likely to be guided by the Chinese Amban stationed in Lhasa to an extent that has not been in vogue previously.

9. Sir Chandra professes personally to set little value on the Chinese connection as of practical value to Nepal, but he would prefer to avoid a rupture as he would lose popularity in Nepal if his policy should result in strained relations with Thibet.

He assured me that he will keep the Government fully informed of all that he hears, and will take no action regarding any proposal which Mr. Chang may make in pursuance of his declared intention to visit Nepal, without consulting the Government of India.

[19880]

No. 185.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 17.)*

(No. 196.)

Sir,

*Peking, April 29, 1907.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 184 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to state that, in accordance with the instructions in your telegram No. 42, I informed the Wai-wu Pu verbally on the 23rd instant that, though there was no objection to Captain O'Connor's following their Excellencies' suggestion and calling on the Chinese Deputy at Gyangtse, he would not be authorized to do so until His Majesty's Government were satisfied that the orders to Chang Ta-jên and his subordinates, issued by the Chinese Government, to place no obstacles in the way of direct relations between British and Thibetan officials and people were carried out.

The Grand Secretary, Na Tung, assumed that, as the Wai-wu Pu had heard nothing further from Thibet, the orders had been executed.

I said that, although a report from the British Agent at Gyangtse had been asked for, there was so far no information from the Indian Government which would indicate that the orders had been executed, and I suggested that, to make certain another telegram might be sent to Chang Ta-jên.

His Excellency agreed that a telegram could be sent, though he did not say definitely that it would.

A copy of this despatch has been sent to the Government of India.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

[20090]

No. 186.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 17.)*

(No. 101.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*St. Petersburg, June 17, 1907.*

MY despatch No. 296 of the 2nd June.

Scientific missions and definitions of boundaries of Thibet.

I have received a proposal from the Russian Government that the British and



Russian Ministers in Peking should be instructed, in the first place, to arrange with each other to sound the Chinese Government separately as to their views on the above subjects, and that the two Representatives could address themselves officially to them when their views have been ascertained. The Russian Government fully agree with your view that the conclusion of the Thibet Convention should in no wise be dependent on the negotiations with the Chinese Government.

[20001]

No. 187.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 17.)*

(No. 111.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, June 17, 1907.

I COMMUNICATED the contents of your telegram No. 66 of the 11th June to the Wai-wu Pu, who state that they will telegraph to Chang Ta-ch'en to proceed to India, taking with him a Thibetan official, to undertake the negotiation of the Thibetan Trade Mart Regulations. They request that the name of the official whom His Majesty's Government propose to appoint may be communicated to them.

I have repeated this telegram to his Excellency the Viceroy of India.

[20090]

No. 188.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 86.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, June 19, 1907.

SCIENTIFIC missions to Thibet: Your telegram No. 101 of the 17th June.

We accept the proposal of the Russian Government, and are sending telegraphic instructions to Sir J. Jordan, at Peking, to concert with his Russian colleague.

You can inform the Russian Government of this, and you should also ask that the Russian Minister may be sent similar instructions.

[20090]

No. 189.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 71.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, June 19, 1907.

SCIENTIFIC missions in Thibet: Prohibition of entry.

In Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 164 of the 28th March last (see Confidential print, section 2 of the 2nd April), was inclosed a draft note, the terms of which we have accepted.

The Russian Government have proposed that the Russian Minister and you should sound the Chinese Government separately, in order to ascertain their views with regard to the prohibition of missions and the limits of Thibet (see paragraph 3 of despatch), and should then address them officially after having ascertained their views. We have agreed to this proposal.

You are therefore requested to concert with your Russian colleague, to whom similar instructions will be sent.

[20718]

No. 190.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 24.)*

(No. 321.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, June 17, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 296 of the 2nd instant, in which I had the honour to inclose an *aide-mémoire* which I had communicated to M. Isvolsky relative to the procedure to be adopted with the Chinese Government as to obtaining a definition of the boundaries of Thibet, I beg leave to transmit a Memorandum which I have



received from the Russian Government, suggesting that, in the first place, the Russian and British Representatives at Peking should address themselves separately to the Chinese Government on the above subject before taking an official step. I should be glad to be informed if this procedure would meet with your approval.

I telegraphed the substance of the *aide-mémoire* in my telegram No. 101 of to-day's date.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 190.

*Memorandum communicated by Russian Government to Sir A. Nicolson.*

SE déclarant prêt à accepter en principe la proposition contenue dans l'*aide-mémoire* de l'Ambassade Britannique en date du 20 Mai (2 Juin), année courante, le Gouvernement Impérial croit devoir entrer dans quelques détails au sujet de la démarche projetée à Pékin pour amener le Gouvernement Chinois à ne pas admettre de son côté, pour autant qu'il dépendra de lui, durant une période de trois ans, l'entrée de missions scientifiques au Tibet, et à déclarer le point de vue officiel de la Chine sur les limites géographiques exactes de ce territoire.

Pour prévenir tout malentendu, il semblerait utile de charger les Ministres Russe et Britannique à Pékin de se mettre d'accord pour entrer séparément en un échange d'idées préalable avec les Ministres Chinois. Après s'être assurés des dispositions du Gouvernement de Pékin, les deux Représentants pourraient faire la démarche officielle projetée. Le Gouvernement Russe aime à espérer que le Cabinet de Londres voudra bien partager son avis quant aux avantages pratiques de ce mode de procéder, et lui communiquer la décision qui sera prise à ce sujet. Il va sans dire que la conclusion de l'arrangement sur la question du Tibet arrêtée entre les Gouvernements Russe et Britannique ne dépendra en rien des négociations qui auront lieu à Pékin.

*Saint-Petersbourg, le 2 (15) Juin, 1907.*

[20730]

No. 191.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 24.)*

(No. 333.)

Sir,

*St. Petersburg, June 20, 1907.*

IN accordance with the instructions conveyed in your telegram No. 86 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of an *aide-mémoire* which I have communicated to M. Isvolsky in respect to the procedure to be followed by the Russian and British Ministers at Peking in connection with the prohibition of the entry of scientific missions into Thibet from Chinese territory, and for ascertaining the views of the Chinese Government as to the geographical limits of Thibet.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 191.

*Memorandum communicated by Sir A. Nicolson to M. Isvolsky.*

HIS Majesty's Embassy has had the honour to receive the *aide-mémoire* which the Imperial Ministry for Foreign Affairs was good enough to address to it on the 2nd (15th) June, and is authorized to state that His Majesty's Government accept the proposal of the Imperial Government in regard to the procedure to be followed by the Russian and British Ministers at Peking in addressing themselves to the Chinese Government respecting the prohibition of the entry of scientific missions into Thibet

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for a period of three years, and also for obtaining the official views of that Government in respect to the geographical limits of Thibet.

Instructions have been sent to the British Minister at Peking to concert with his Russian colleague on the subject, and His Majesty's Government would be glad if the Imperial Government would send similar instructions.

*St. Petersburg, June 7 (20), 1907.*

[21086]

No. 192.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 25.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 21st instant, regarding Thibet—negotiation of trade regulations with China.

*India Office, June 25, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 192.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, June 21, 1907.*

PLEASE communicate to Peking Legation for information copy of your letter of the 23rd May regarding Thibet. I should be glad to know name of officer to be appointed to negotiate with Chang with reference to telegram respecting negotiation of trade regulations dated the 17th June from His Majesty's Minister at Peking.

[21085]

No. 193.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 25.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 21st instant, regarding scientific missions to Thibet.

*India Office, June 25, 1907.*

Inclosure in No. 193.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, June 21, 1907.*

THIBET. Scientific exploration.

Acceptance by His Majesty's Government of draft note inclosed in despatch of the 28th March from Sir A. Nicolson was notified on the 19th instant to His Majesty's Minister at Peking, with instructions that he and his Russian colleague, who will be similarly instructed, are each separately to sound Chinese Government regarding limits of Thibet and prohibition of missions, and that they are then to address an official communication to that Government on the subject.



[21096]

No. 194.

*Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 25.)*

(No. 122.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Peking, June 25, 1907.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 71 of the 19th June, I have the honour to inform you that my Russian colleague and myself separately sounded the Wai-wu Pu to-day on the subject of the prohibition against scientific missions entering Thibet.

The Ministers replied that they would verbally communicate to us in due course, and after communication with Prince Ch'ing, the views of their Government, but it would take some time to decide the important considerations which the question involved.

[21271]

No. 195.

*Government of India to Mr. Morley.—(Communicated by India Office, June 26, 1907.)*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*June 22, 1907.*

FOLLOWING facts are reported for such action as may be considered desirable by His Majesty's Government:—

Report from Trade Agent, Gyantse, states that application was made for accommodation by four representatives of Indian firms, two of them being travelled Parsis, who reached Gyantse on the 10th instant. In view of the occupation of the Dak bungalow, O'Connor informed Jongpens by letter of traders' arrival, and stated that, in accordance with clause 2 of Trade Regulations and Article II of Lhasa Treaty, accommodation would be required. After consulting Gow and Lhasa Government's representatives at Gyantse, Jongpens replied on following day that, if O'Connor would state traders' requirements, rooms might be found for them temporarily near bazaar, though it was not their business to make fresh arrangements for provision of houses for traders. In reply O'Connor invited Jongpens to call and arrange matters in personal consultation, saying at the same time that suitable houses and godowns could be rented by traders in accordance with Treaty. Invitation to visit O'Connor was refused point blank by Jongpens.

Until he is once more placed in direct communication with Thibetan officers, O'Connor cannot render any assistance to traders, who are at present lodged in two unsuitable servants' rooms of the Dak bungalow. Matter, therefore, rests here. Separate reports have been received from Trade Agent, showing constant occurrence of damage and interruption to telegraph line; O'Connor states that since his direct intercourse with Thibetan officials is prohibited he is unable to move in matter.

[21102]

No. 196.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 26.)*

(No. 108.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*St. Petersburg, June 25, 1907.*

THIBET. Boundaries and scientific missions: Your telegram No. 86 of the 19th instant.

Telegraphic instructions in sense desired have been sent to Russian Representative at Peking.

[21271]

No. 197.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.*

(No. 76.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, June 27, 1907.*

FROM the telegram dispatched by the Government of India on the 22nd instant dealing with the affairs of Thibet, we can have little doubt that the local Chinese officials refuse to conform with the orders of the Chinese Government regarding the freedom of communications between the Thibetan officials and inhabitants of Gyantse



and the Trade Agent. Were we to adopt the logical solution of this deadlock, we should have to take steps to compel the Tibetans to meet the requirements which O'Connor has made in conformity with the terms of the Convention. His Majesty's Government of course do not propose either to reinforce the escort at Gyantse or to deal directly with the Tibetan Government, without the intervention of China, through the dispatch of an envoy to Lhasa.

I request you therefore to bring the matter again before the notice of the Chinese Government, and to make further very serious representations to them on the subject. You should point out to them that while the evacuation of the Chumbi Valley by the 1st January next would be a source of equal satisfaction to both Governments, yet their interests will be served, to a greater degree even than ours, by the establishment of the normal conditions at Gyantse which were contemplated by the Convention. There is no need to anticipate any further difficulties when once such conditions are established, as we want nothing more than freedom of trade, for it must be remembered that other clauses of the Convention safeguard our political interests. You should also draw the attention of the Chinese Government to the fact that no friction existed between O'Connor and the Tibetans of the locality previous to the intervention of Chang and Gow.

His Majesty's Government do not contemplate military steps, but the Chinese Government might be informed that we may find it necessary to revise our attitude with regard to the indemnity by withdrawing from the arrangement which permits China to pay it. Should such a step become necessary, we should ourselves notify our change of front in this matter towards China to the Government of Lhasa, and warn them to hold themselves in readiness when the time comes to make direct payment independently of China.

Do you think that there is any possibility of inducing the Chinese Government entirely to remove Gow from all employment in Tibet?

But I would wish you to understand that His Majesty's Government do not propose to adopt a policy in Tibet directed either towards fostering trade or asserting political influence, but they desire to reduce to the minimum, which would be consistent with the maintenance of the Convention, the establishments at the marts.

If things go on quietly it might ultimately be possible to appoint a native agent to Gyantse.

China is trifling with her obligations in the matter of Tibet in the same way as she is doing in dealing with railway and other Concessions, and I should be glad to bring pressure to bear on her. Unless, however, we have some practical course of action in view, such a proceeding presents difficulties. Can you therefore suggest any such course of action as means for making China take a serious view of all her obligations to us? Should you be able to do so, I should be glad to consider it.

This telegram has been repeated to the Government of India.



#### Source Citation

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